the UE Otsego & Plainwell UNION ENTERPRISE

FREE

Volume 71, Issue 28 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com Thursday, January 8, 2026

Otsego NHS continues 'Share the Warmth' partnership with Kalamazoo Gospel Mission

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

As winter settles in across Southwest Michigan, members of the Otsego High School National Honor Society are once again working to help ensure those in need have the proper clothing to stay warm.

Throughout January, the OHS NHS is sponsoring its annual Share the Warmth campaign, collecting new cold-weather items to be donated to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

Items being collected include new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks. Donations may be dropped off at the Otsego High School office, and community members can also contribute by purchasing items through the group's Amazon wish list.

OHS math teacher Katie Wideen, who serves as advisor for the National Honor Society, said the project began four years ago after students expressed a desire to expand their service beyond the Otsego community.

"When I met with my officers after taking over the National Honor Society group, they wanted to do something new and different that would impact the greater Kalamazoo community," Wideen said. "We already did a big Christmas project locally, so we wanted to find a way to help beyond our own area."

The group decided to partner with the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, focusing on winter clothing for individuals who often must spend significant time outdoors during the colder months.

Otsego High School NHS members deliver cold-weather gear to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission two years ago. (File photo)

OTSEGO NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY
SHARE THE WARMTH
*** DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH JANUARY ***
Drop off NEW hats, gloves, scarves, socks, etc.
to the High School
OR
Purchase items off the Amazon Wishlist!
All donations are needed by 1/28/2026 and will be given to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
SCAN HERE
OR VISIT: https://bit.ly/3Y9PUAa

"The response has been great each year from both the school community and people from the community," she said. "We try to make it as easy as possible to help by creating an Amazon wish list, but this is also a great time of year to pick things up while winter items are on clearance and drop them off at the high school."

Beyond the number of items collected, Wideen said the project has a meaningful impact on NHS students themselves.

"This project helps students realize there are many people who don't have the necessary items to keep warm during Michigan winters," she said. "Many of these are things my students take for granted."

NHS members will also deliver the donated items to the Gospel Mission, giving them a firsthand look at where their efforts make a difference.

"They'll get a tour of the facility and meet some of the residents who will be blessed by their donations," Wideen said.

In addition to Share the Warmth, the Otsego High School National Honor Society has several service projects planned for the remainder of the school year.

In February, NHS students will complete their third round of handmade cards for four assisted living facilities — one in Otsego and three on the west and north sides of Kalamazoo. The group creates approximately 450 cards each round, with projects held for Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day and spring/Easter.

In March, NHS will partner with Otsego's elementary schools for March is Reading Month. Members will visit the schools to read to elementary students.

"The elementary kids love having the older kids come and read to them, and the older kids love hanging out with the younger kids and seeing their former elementary teachers," Wideen said.

In April, NHS will complete its fourth and final round of handmade cards for the same four assisted living facilities, again producing about 450 cards.

In May, NHS will partner with Roofsit to help raise money for the Community Healing Centers of Kalamazoo through the organization's Tips for Kids campaign. Students will spend a day at the Shell gas station on West Main collecting monetary tips, all of which will be donated directly to the Community Healing Centers, which provide resources and support for children and families in the Kalamazoo area affected by child abuse.

As the Share the Warmth campaign continues, Wideen expressed appreciation for the community's ongoing support.

"We want to thank the community for all of their support for each project that we do," she said.

Donations for the Share the Warmth campaign will be accepted through Wednesday, Jan. 28, with all items benefiting the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

My Future Fund program launching for PCS kindergarten students

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Are you the parent or guardian of a kindergarten student who attends Plain-well Community Schools? If so, you may want to mark your calendar for an upcoming informational meeting introducing the My Future Fund program, which will roll out for all PCS kindergarten students beginning next month.

Information about the program has been sent home with students, sharing details about an opportunity available to all 2025-26 Plainwell Community Schools kindergarten students through the Allegan County Community Foundation. The My Future Fund program is designed to help students begin saving for their future at an early age.

Families are invited to attend a free kickoff event celebrating the launch of the program on Wednesday, January 14, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Plainwell High School cafeteria, located at 684 Starr Road.

Kindergarten students and their families can enjoy a night of pizza, snacks and activity stations hosted by community partners, along with opportunities to learn more about how the My Future Fund program works. Students who attend will receive a $5 incentive deposited into their account, with chances to earn additional incentives throughout the evening.

Families planning to attend are asked to RSVP in advance and include the total number of people in their household who will be attending. The sign-up form is available online at: https://myfutureaccf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/event?event_date_id=1002

Those with questions about the My Future Fund program are encouraged to contact their student's school building after winter break for more information.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT
JANUARY 14 WEDNESDAY
6:00 - 7:30 PM
AT PLAINWELL HIGHSCHOOL CAFETERIA
JOIN US AS WE LAUNCH MY FUTURE FUND!
My Future Fund (MFF) helps students start saving for their future. Each child receives a $65 deposit and can earn incentives while learning about money and saving.
FREE FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
• Pizza
• Snacks
• Activity Stations
• Earn Incentives
RSVP HERE!
A program of the ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
my future FUND PLAINWELL

Plainwell meeting set for Jan. 12

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PLAINWELL — The next meeting of the Plainwell City Council is set for 7 p.m. on Jan. 12.

At the council's most recent meetings the council was to consider Plainwell City Charter having an annual audit of all city accounts by qualified accounts experienced in municipal accounting.

The firm Siegfried Crandall, PC has provided auditing services for Plainwell for many years, and was to represent the city's audited financial statements as of June 30, 2025 to Council.

The council was to consider accepting and placing on file the audited financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025.

At the end of each year, the City Council adopts resolutions that set dates, designate various employees for certain duties, and provide poverty exemption information for the upcoming year.

Resolutions 2026-01 through 2026-05 designate Ordinance Enforcement Officers, set Council meeting dates, approve Employee Holidays, set Street Flag dates and provide poverty exemption guidelines for 2026.

The council was to consider an On-Premises Tasting Permit An on-premises tasting permit is a license that allows alcohol manufacturers to sell and serve their products for consumption at a tasting room located on their licensed premises. In Michigan, the application requires recommendation from the local governing unit.

Deep Well Brewing LLC was applying for an On-Premise Tasting Permit for their location at 712 E. Bridge St. in Plainwell.

The council was to consider approving Resolution 2025-22 as presented, which recommends approval of a On-Premises Tasting Permit for Deep Well Brewing LLC by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

The city has been negotiating with Classic Auto Factory for the last several months and the two sides now have a lease which both parties are generally in favor of. It follows the terms that have been previously presented to the Council.

The council was to discuss and review currently proposed development plans for the Mill Complex.

INDEX

Classifieds B7
Puzzles / For The Record B5
Obituaries A7
Viewpoints A6
Community Events A4
Religion B8
Sports B1-B2

IT'S YOUR WORLD. READ ALL ABOUT IT YOUR WAY.
From home delivery to electronic subscriptions or breaking news on our website, we keep you in the know and on the go.
wilcoxnewspapers.com

FDL celebrates parking lot completion, launches winter reading program

By Art Nicholas

After two years of planning and construction, the Fennville District Library has completed its parking lot and upper porch renovation project, transforming the facility's accessibility and creating new community spaces. The project, which wrapped up in late November, represents a significant milestone for the library and its patrons.

The renovation addressed critical safety and environmental concerns while adding an innovative "upper porch" that provides additional seating and programming space. The project required extensive coordination with community partners, including Fennville Public Schools and Allegan Credit Union, which allowed the library to use their parking lots during construction. Supermercado La Poblanita, a neighboring business, provided staff parking throughout the project.

"We are deeply grateful to our patrons for their patience and support during the construction period," said Teresa Kline, executive director of Fennville District Library. "This project has been a true community effort, and the result is a facility that will serve our patrons better for decades to come."

The library worked with Viridis Design Group throughout the planning and design phases, with

Renovated entrance and ramp.

architects Tim Britain, Matt Hull, and Allison True creating a design that balanced functionality, aesthetics, and environmental sustainability. Midwest Construction provided the construction services, with Assistant Project Manager Connor Grysen tracking expenses and Project Manager Doug VanDenBeldt overseeing daily operations on site.

City Administrator Katie Beemer played a crucial role in administering the grant funding and navigating regulatory requirements for the project.

Fundraising Push Continues

While the construction is complete, the Friends of the Fennville District Library are working to raise the final $50,000 needed for the project through a creative jigsaw puzzle campaign. Community members can purchase pieces of three different puzzles that, when completed, will display images of the new parking lot and upper porch.

The puzzle pieces are available for purchase at three price points: $10 for a piece of the 1,000-piece puzzle, $50 for a piece of the 500-piece puzzle, and $150 for a piece of the 100-piece puzzle. Patrons can also contribute loose change to a jar at the library, with a puzzle piece added each time donations reach $10.

Winter Reading Challenge Underway

The library launched its 2026 Winter Reading Program on January 5 with a kick-off event featuring bingo games and prizes. Running through March 31, the program challenges participants of all ages to complete a reading bingo card.

Participants select books

that fit different category squares on their bingo cards, with the goal of completing a line or the four corners. Ambitious readers can attempt to fill the entire card for an extra challenge. When participants achieve a bingo, they can bring their completed card to the library and enter it into one of five prize raffles.

"The Winter Reading Program is designed to keep our community engaged with reading during the colder months," Kline said. "It's fun for the entire family, and we're excited to see how creative our patrons get with matching books to the different categories."

Bingo cards are available for pickup at the Fennville District Library.

Tool Library Coming in April

In what may be the library's most significant expansion of services, Fennville District Library will open a tool library in early April, made possible by a generous donation. The new service will allow patrons to borrow tools using the same system they currently use for books, DVDs, hotspots, and other materials.

Tool libraries have gained popularity across the country as a way to increase community access to equipment that individuals may only need occasionally. The concept aligns with the library's mission to provide resources that support learning, creativity, and practical skills.

The addition of a tool library represents a significant expansion of what the Fennville District Library offers to the community, moving beyond traditional media to provide hands-on resources for home improvement, crafts, and other projects.

More details about the tool library's collection and borrowing policies will be announced as the April opening date approaches.

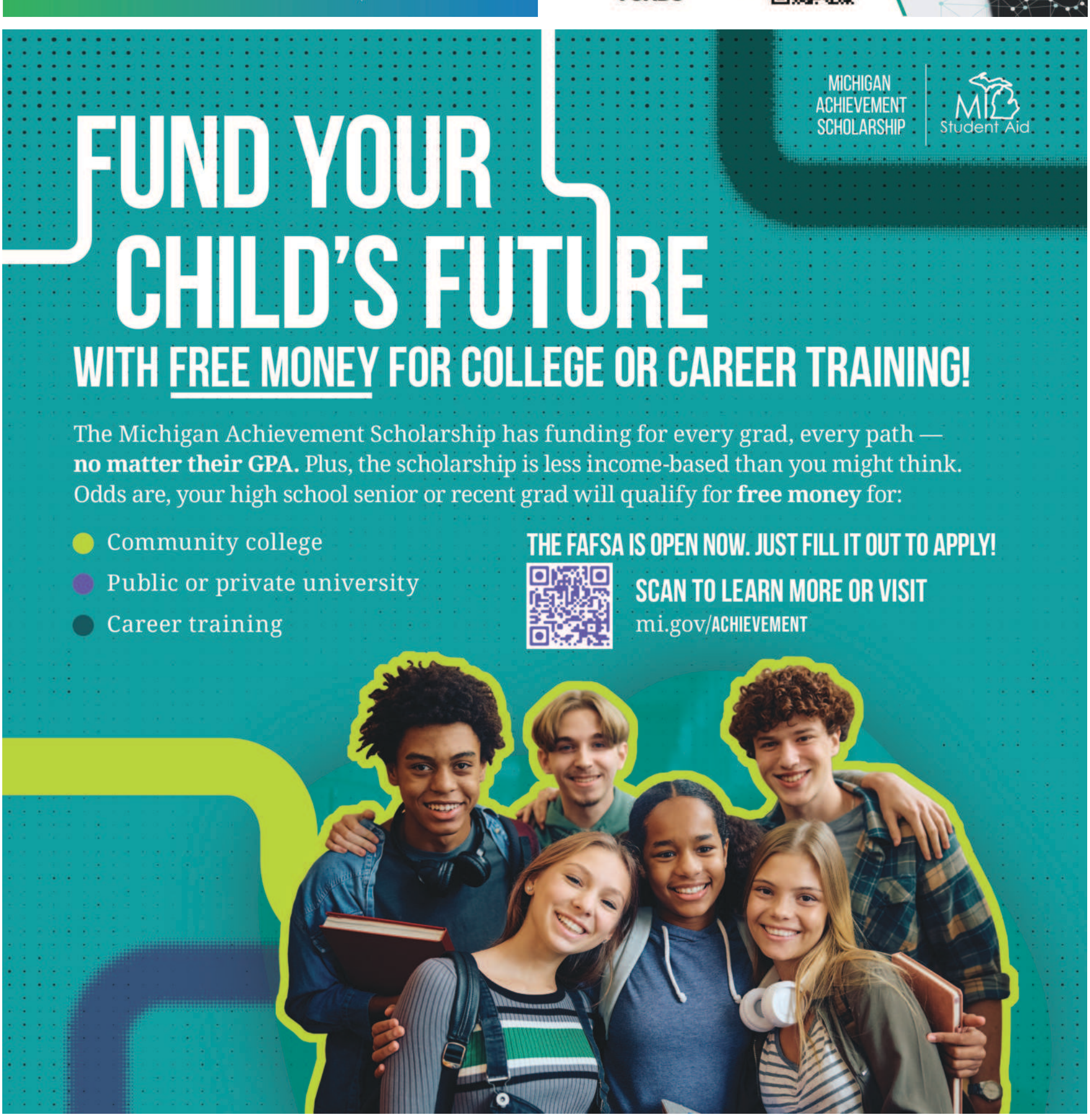
Looking Ahead

With the parking lot renovation complete, a robust winter reading program underway, and the tool library opening on the horizon, the Fennville District Library continues to evolve to meet community needs. The library is located at 400 West Main Street in Fennville and serves residents throughout the surrounding area.

For more information about library programs, hours, and services, visit the Fennville District Library or call during regular business hours. (269) 561-5050.

123 NET
HOME FIBER INTERNET
HEY ALLEGAN COUNTY,
FIBER IS HERE.
123NET has started connecting select Allegan County residents. Check your address to see your estimated service availbility date.
Scan the QR Code to Sign Up or See When Fiber Internet Will Be Available.
MI.123.NET | 248.359.8395

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF IMPACT in Allegan County
Allegan County Community Foundation
Impacting Community. For Good. For Ever.
For 60 years, the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) has been investing in what matters most—our people, our places, and our future. We support every corner of Allegan County with the programs and partnerships that help our communities thrive.
Whether it's:
Supporting local nonprofits and schools
Providing scholarships and youth leadership opportunities
Expanding access to books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Helping families build brighter futures through My Future Fund
ACCF is here to turn generosity into action. We manage more than 200 charitable funds and connect donors, volunteers, and organizations to create lasting, local impact.
Proudly serving Allegan County since 1965.
Learn more or get involved at alleganfoundation.org
VIEW FUNDS


MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Student Aid
FUND YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE
WITH FREE MONEY FOR COLLEGE OR CAREER TRAINING!
The Michigan Achievement Scholarship has funding for every grad, every path — no matter their GPA. Plus, the scholarship is less income-based than you might think. Odds are, your high school senior or recent grad will qualify for free money for:
Community college
Public or private university
Career training
THE FAFSA IS OPEN NOW. JUST FILL IT OUT TO APPLY!
SCAN TO LEARN MORE OR VISIT
mi.gov/ACHIEVEMENT

Art of Ink showcased at Allegan District Library

The Art of Ink showcased at the Allegan District Library

By Gari Voss

The Allegan District Library invites all to a special art exhibition. The Art of Ink, a celebration of tattooing, began in December 2025 and will hold a special reception on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6pm when the public can meet some of Allegan's talented tattoo artists, including Sugar Inksu & Sky Em (Pretty Pink Tingz), Brittany Metz (B Tattoos), and Raven Wynd (Tattoos by Raven). After the Opening Reception, those in attendance can walk to Tantrick Brewing Co. to enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and conversation.

Tattooing is one of the most dynamic forms of art in the world. The intricate patterns, designs, and imagery are created on a living canvas, which means that the design must work around the texture and movement of the skin. In addition, the art must meet the personal desires of the person receiving the tattoo.

When Allegan District Library Director Pam Armstrong began considering hosting a tattoo exhibit, she drew on past experiences. "My interest in featuring the 'Art of Ink' at the library was sparked after attending Matt Stebly's 'Bloodlines' exhibition at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art [in Mississippi], plus attending the Peter Anderson Art Festival each year. I deeply appreciate the creativity and skill that artists bring to every tattoo."

Often, a tattoo may begin with the selection of a stencil, but a client may begin the process with a conversation or sharing an image or picture. Therefore, the traditional iconography of hearts, flowers, birds, snakes, skulls, comic figures, dragons and mythological creatures, landscapes, religious subjects, erotica and group insignia of various kinds has been extended and has become quite intricate.

"Tattoos are a major commitment that requires significant trust between the consumer and the artist," explained Armstrong. "While I do not have any tattoos myself, they are one of the most popular art forms in the world today. I realized they had fully entered mainstream society when the Disney Corporation began allowing employees to display visible tattoos."

Tattooing has been traced back prior to 8000 B.C., which ends the Ice Age, and through the centuries, tattoos have been found on the mummified skin of the Egyptian priestess, and in cultures such as the Greeks, Incas, Mayans, Aztecs, Japanese, Polynesians, Maoris, plus early Jews and Christians. Though current populations often attribute tattoos to the lower class or institutionalized, it has truly been the upper classes that have been devoted to what was considered an aura of mystery, idiosyncrasy, adventurousness or exoticism.

The Art of Ink, a display of local tattoo artists, can be viewed on the Community Wall at the Allegan District Library through February 2026. A special reception will be held on Mon., Jan. 12, 2026, at 6pm with a follow-up gathering to be held at Tantrick Brewing Co. following the library meet and greet. Photo: Pamela Armstrrong

Because the contemporary tattooists consider themselves as craftsmen or artists, clients who seek extensive tattoos rely on the tattooist to treat them as a blank canvas. Many of the artists have formal training with interests in painting, sculpture, and performance. The extensive work in a variety of mediums allows tattooists to utilize a variety of techniques and avoid using most of the traditional iconography used in painting, sculpture, drawing, performance, and the other plastic and visual arts.

Marcia Tucker, a writer known for her research into tattooing, explained, "Such artists are changing the nature of contemporary tattooing by virtue of their new and different attitudes toward imagery, technique, source material, clients and the ways in which they see the function of tattooing in general. They have introduced conceptual pieces, pagan elements and non-illustrative designs into the field of traditional tattoo."

Art reviewers believe that contemporary tattooists are changing the view of tattooing and keeping the art from becoming stagnant. Images often incorporate a flavor of folk art and even primitive elements that include arcane symbols and traditional images with pigment, but the modern machines and multiple needles take the creations to new heights.

"Our goal is to bring as many patrons as possible into the library to enjoy our services," shared Armstrong. "As someone who appreciates art in all its forms, I am pleased to include tattooing as an art form at the library."

Special recognition was given by Armstrong, "Chloe Schans, the Adult Programmer and Marketing Coordinator, listened to my ideas and made it happen. It would not have happened without her hard work."

"Step into the world of body art and craftsmanship!" the invitation reads. "Tattooing, once associated with stigma, has evolved into a broadly accepted and desired form of contemporary art. Tattoo artists transform the challenging surface of the body, creating designs that are rich with meaning, expressing identity, remembrance, and heritage."

The Allegan District Library is proud to showcase a breadth of work from some of Allegan County's skilled tattoo artists during the Art of Ink display that will be available on the Community Wall through February 2026.

Last call for Red Barn Playhouse

By Jim Hayden
Correspondent

The final curtain call for a Saugatuck barn that hosted summer plays for almost 50 years is coming in 2026.

The former Red Barn, at 6357 63rd St. northeast of town, is expected to be razed and replaced with an extension of the neighbor event venue.

The Grant Collection LLC opened the adjoining Emerson Lodge, which hosts weddings, corporate events, rehearsal dinners and other celebrations, in January 2025.

The Grant Collection also owns the Ivy House in Saugatuck and Port 393 in Holland.

The Laketown Township site was previously home to Guardian Brewery, which closed in 2024.

The owners of the Emerson Lounge are proposing removing the barn that housed the former theater but keeping the adjoining silo. A new structure will be built for enhancement of the event venue.

"The barn has been determined to be unoccupiable in its current condition and is also past the point of being reasonably salvageable for the intended use," the company wrote in an Oct. 28, 2025, memo to the Laketown Township Zoning Board of Appeals.

On Dec. 17, the ZBA approved a dimensional variance request for the proposed building for reduced setbacks from neighboring property.

Plans for the new structure must still go before the township planning commission. No date for demolition has been set, though spring is possible.

About the Red Barn

The Red Barn Playhouse was founded by James Webster in 1948 in Douglas, according to a May 26, 1988, article in the Commercial Record. In 1953, Webster purchased the current site which was part of the Belvedere Estate. The barn was built in 1921.

"The barn was filled with livestock and corn at the time of purchase," the article said. "By the spring of 1954, however, he had converted it into the present Red Barn and opened it in June of that year."

The theater went through several ownership changes and was at one point enlarged to hold 500 people.

The theater closed in 2002, according to the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center. It was an antique store before becoming the brewery in 2017.

MICHIGAN'S #1 FENCE COMPANY
FENCE CONSULTANTS
Of West Michigan
Residential & Commercial Fencing
Railing • Gates and Access Control
Temporary Rental Fences • Wire Mesh Partitions
Holland (616) 392-3496
Kalamazoo (269) 359-1296

COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Mon. – Sat. 5-9pm: Warming Station when temp below 32 degrees - Good Shepherd 101 N. Walnut, Allegan

Fri., Jan. 9, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank. Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan

Fri., Jan. 9, 2026, 5pm: DADs Swiss Steak Dinner. Otsego Post 3030 124 N. Farmer St. Otsego

Mon., Jan 12, 2025, 6pm: The Art of Ink. Allegan District Library Hubbard St.

Tues., Jan 13, 2025, 11am-1pm: Meals on Wheels Pop Up Lunch! Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut Allegan

Tues., Jan. 13, 2026: Book & A Movie – *Crazy Rich Asians*. Allegan District Library

Wed., Jan. 14, 2026, 6pm: Water Conservation Workshop. Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Jan. 7, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Sensory Play Day. Ages 0-7 can gather for an hour of fun in the sensory bins.
6pm: Pintesting: Cricut Snowflake Mug. Register at 269 673-4625 to enjoy an evening of making mugs.

Thurs., Jan. 8, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: Teen Art Hangout. -Grades 6-12 can drop in to make DIY Doorhangers.

Fri., Jan. 9, 10am – Sun., Jan. 11, 2026, 3pm: Stuff-a-Bag Headband Sale
Sassy Olive 125 Locust St. Allegan
The annual sale to stuff a bag in the store or call for help.

Fri., Jan. 9, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank
Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan
Call 269-673-5472 ext. 258, or email diaperbank@communityactionallegan.org.

Fri., Jan. 9, 2026, 5pm: DADs Swiss Steak Dinner
Otsego Post 3030 124 N. Farmer St. Otsego
Enjoy a wonderful dinner with family and friends.

Mon., Jan 12, 2025, 6pm: The Art of Ink
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
Step into the world of body art and craftsmanship! The exhibit will feature contemporary art. The exhibit will follow with a reception at Tantrick Brewing.

Tues., Jan. 13, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 year olds can listen to stories and do activities.
5:30pm: Book & A Movie – *Crazy Rich Asians*. Come and enjoy the movie and discussion.

Tues., Jan 13, 2025, 11am-1pm: Meals on Wheels Pop Up Lunch!
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut Allegan
All are welcome to come to lunch! Please sit and chat or play a game. It is suggested that those 60 and over make a $3.50 donation, and those

Wed., Jan. 14, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Recess for Adults. Come and interact with friends from the Arc of Allegan.
6pm: Water Conservation Workshop. Explore the ecology of the Kalamazoo River Watershed.

Thurs., Jan. 15, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
4pm: Teen Advisory Group – TAG. Grades 8-12 can drop in and enjoy snacks while chating about favorite things.

Fri., Jan. 16, 2026, 6pm: Teen Tech Night
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
Grades 6-12 rule after hours on the electronic equipment.

Sat., Jan. 17, 2026, 11am: The Art of Self-Defense
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
Teens and adults can join Jonny Puente to learn about martial arts and self-defense.

Wed., Jan. 21, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank
Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan
Call 269-673-5472 ext. 258, or email diaperbank@communityactionallegan.org.

Fri., Jan. 23, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank
Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan
Call 269-673-5472 ext. 258, or email diaperbank@communityactionallegan.org.

Sat., Jan. 24, 2026, 8pm: The Dirty Down Under Comedy Show
Tantrick Down Under 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Doors open at 7pm, show at 8pm. Enjoy the laughs. Purchase tickets at https://www.facebook.com/events/1559865752004499

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Addiction Support Group, Thursdays 7-8pm
1900 Lincoln Road, Allegan
Come as you are.

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Interfaith Sunday Services
Mothers Trust is a nonprofit that is offering inclusive, interfaith worship services open to all Sundays at 11am at 6676 122nd Ave. Fennville. Information: Megan Hybels 269 312-0369, megan_h@motherstrust.org

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org., 269-686-6456

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. Martin 269 672-7097

Mobile Food Pantry, 2nd Monday of the Month: Drive Thru Food Distribution
Casco United Methodist Church 880 66th ST, South Haven MI 49090

Driver's License Restoration | Drunk Driving & Criminal Defense
It's a Process... We Can Help! | "Friends... Don't Let Friends Plead Guilty!"
Law Office of
FREDERICK J. TAYLOR
269-388-6060 • 1-800-250-FRED

We Sell Off Lease Computers!
Desktops Starting at $199.99
Laptops Starting at $299.99
All come with a FREE six-month warranty!
Expert printer repair and other small business services also available
A-Tech COMPUTERS + MORE
311 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI
(269) 783-5465
atechccs@gmail.com
atechccs.com

NOTHIN' BUT A GOOD TIME
AARON LEWIS AND THE STATELINERS
2026 AMERICAN TOUR
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
SOLD OUT
LEWIS BLACK
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27
GEORGE THOROGOOD AND THE DESTROYERS
FRIDAY, MARCH 27
Tickets available now at the FireKeepers Box Office or FireKeepersCasino.com.
FIREKEEPERS CASINO • HOTEL BATTLE CREEK GET YOUR VEGAS ON™
I-94 to Exit 104 | 11177 Michigan Avenue | Battle Creek, MI 49014
Must be 21 or older. Tickets based on availability. Schedule subject to change.

THE REGENT THEATRE
211 Trowbridge St., Allegan
www.alleganregent.com
269-673-2737
HUGH JACKMAN KATE HUDSON
Song Sung Blue
INSPIRED BY A LEGEND. BOUND BY A DREAM.
Rated PG-13
NOW PLAYING
Friday, Jan. 9 - Thursday, Jan. 15
7pm Feature • $5 – Sat. & Sun. 2pm Matinee • $4
Mondays - 2-for-1 Admission • Tuesdays- 25 cent Popcorn

VALLEY CITY MECHANICAL
Commercial & Residential
Serving your neighborhood with experience that began in 1963
• HEATING
• COOLING
• REFRIGERATION
• WATER HEATERS
• RADIENT IN FLOOR
• GEO-THERMAL
• BOILERS
• SMART BUILDINGS
• SERVICE ALL MAKES
Rheem
The new degree of comfort.®
616-591-4786
Check out our Valley City Preventative Maintenance Programs

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH
Allegan Area ESA
THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO OUR COMMUNITY

From Left-Right:
William Brown, Superintendent
Stephanie Calhoun, Trustee
Larry E. Collier, President
Leslie Ballard, Treasurer
Rick Day, Vice President
Mary Howard, Secretary

Beautify Pullman seeks support from Lee Township and Allegan Road Commission for safe routes to school

By Gari Voss

Beautify Pullman, a nonprofit group in Pullman, MI, has an amazing track record in making improvements to their community. One issue or need at a time has been identified, and this group of motivated residents has stepped forward to secure funding and put in the sweat equity to ensure that it happens.

At this time, they have a deadline of January 12, 2026, to complete the securing of funds for a Safe Routes to School grant. The final paperwork rides on two groups – the Lee Township Board and the Allegan County Road Commission Board.

In a conversation with Beautify Pullman Board President Debby Laraway, she shared, "Our funding for Safe Routes to School has been increased, but we still have the hurdle of getting the Township to be the Act 51 agency, because the Road Commission is requiring that. We'll be responsible for engineering costs and any overages. We want to ask the Township to guarantee the overages, which will probably none, but if there are any, we'll work to cover them."

When Laraway says that Beautify Pullman will take on the fiscal responsibility beyond what they are asking Lee Township to do, she can just refer to the track record of Beautify Pullman over the last five years.

This group began with nothing in 2020 but the vision to make Pullman a place where residents would be proud. It began with planting flowers, then building concrete flower structures, then hiring an artist to create an historic mural, and install a beautify welcome sign. Onward they went with the Pullman Town Square complete with a pavilion, green space, benches, gazebo, huge wooden train to climb on, musical instruments, and children's wall. Add a Veteran's Memorial with the names of service men and women from the Pullman and Lee Township area with signed, donated paving bricks. But it didn't stop there.

The group needed a place to meet, so they invested in a small house right next to the Town Square. After realizing that residents needed to access the internet, open Wi-Fi was added in the Square. A place to meet is not complete without celebrations, so there are celebrations, a Farmers Market in the summer, evening concerts, holiday celebrations, and the list goes on.

In a recent interview with Henry Wolf, the Office of Rural Prosperity Director of Policy and Grant Programs, Beautify Pullman Treasurer Pat Conway shared why Beautify Pullman had been able to achieve so many of its goals. The success relied on identifying a need, and not on what they knew, but on what they did not know and who they asked for assistance. There was no dwelling on the limitations, but on identifying what they wanted to achieve and finding a way to achieve it.

Wolf reviewed the funding that Beautify Pullman had been able to access to achieve their projects:

$100,000 from corporate and private funding

$50,000 from the Office of Rural Prosperity

$100,00 from the MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

$300,000 from the Safe Roads to School Program

$75,000 through Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

"This is an incredible track record for 5 years," Wolf stated as he got to the meat of the interview. "What was the problem you were try to solve when you applied for an engineering study for a Safe Routes to School grant?"

"The Pullman community makes up most of Lee Township in Allegan County, but it is not a city or village. Although it's not incorporated, we actually have a downtown. We have a major intersection. We have small businesses. We have a school. We have a health clinic. We have a large faith-based afterschool program. We have an active V.F.W. And we have a large park that Beautify Pullman built. But there are only a few sidewalks in Pullman, that don't really go anywhere."

Conway took time to review the process. "In 2022, we applied for a Rural Readiness Grant to investigate what it would take to bring sidewalks to our community. We really need sidewalks because we are on a section of county road that's 20 miles long from the lakeshore almost to the city of Allegan. The road does not have stop signs. We have one major intersection that did not even have a crosswalk, but it did have a flashing light. Then the Allegan County Road Commission did improve the intersection, but now, there is not even a flashing light anymore. They installed turn lanes that actually have made the traffic more difficult to navigate for someone who is a pedestrian or on a bicycle trying to cross the street."

Looking at the reality, Conway continued, "The community is a poor community with almost a quarter of the households that do not have access to a vehicle, so out of necessity, they walk and ride bikes everywhere. They go to the grocery store, pick up pizza, get their hair cut, go to the clinic. It is not safe. The school is a block off the main intersection, and every child is eligible for busing because they don't have a safe way to travel. Consider that there are areas where many children live only a quarter mile from school, but they have to be bused because of a lack of sidewalks."

Conway explained, "We decided to investigate sidewalks and bike trails."

That led the group to apply for a Rural Readiness Grant that financed the cost of the study and work plan done by Abonmarche. Now that the study is in hand Wolf queried Conway on what happened after the study was completed.

Since the Abonmarche presentations, the group has been working in earnest with the Michigan Fitness Foundation that administers the Safe Routes to School grant. Thanks to the comprehensive plan created with Abonmarche, about 30% of the estimates are complete. Michigan Fitness can grant up to $300,000."

The original plan laid out by Abonmarche was quite extensive, and Conway explained that the work has taken over a year to refine the route that would have the biggest impact on getting kids to school safely. Michigan Fitness introduced the team to the Technology Alternatives Program, and the Office of Rural Prosperity introduced them to the Michigan Infrastructure Office. It has been a process, but with the final approvals by the Lee Township and the Allegan County Road Commission, Beautify Pullman is ready to begin the next step of seeking bids and beginning the construction of their path to school.

"Beautify Pullman has invested over a half million in the community," stated Conway. "That's pretty spectacular. Most of the funds are through private grants with a few large government grants from the state. People saw that Beautify Pullman was here and making progress. People came onboard and helped. The transportation grant was very important. Through Rural Prosperity, I met someone from Lion Bear Adventures. This group is amazing at helping small communities access resources."

Beautify Pullman is not looking to achieve their sidewalk and trail plan all at once, but they do want to begin this first section of the construction. From there, the group will need to address other issues in the community, but for now, they are looking to the Lee Township Board and the Road Commission to acknowledge that Beautify Pullman will be fiscally responsible for the completion of Phase One of the Safe Routes to School.

Wolf and Seth Carlson from the Office of Rural Prosperity asked Conway for advice to other underserved communities. Her response was simple, "If you want to do something but don't know how, get a couple motivated people together and look for opportunities. Join the Rural Readiness Network and get familiar with the office. You don't have to be a municipality but can be a nonprofit."

Now Beautify Pullman must meet their January 12, 2026, deadline.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

HEALTHY LIVING TIPS FOR EVERYDAY WELL-BEING

Healthy living is built on consistent habits that support both physical and mental well-being. While major lifestyle changes can feel overwhelming, small, intentional choices made each day often have the greatest long-term impact. From nutrition and movement to rest and balance, healthy living is about sustainability rather than perfection.

Nutrition plays a foundational role in overall health. Focusing on balanced meals that include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats helps fuel the body and maintain energy levels. Staying hydrated is equally important, as proper water intake supports digestion, circulation, and concentration. Limiting highly processed foods and added sugars can also reduce the risk of chronic health conditions over time.

Regular physical activity is another key component of a healthy lifestyle. Exercise does not need to be intense or time-consuming to be effective. Activities such as walking, stretching, cycling, or gardening can improve cardiovascular health, strengthen muscles, and boost mood. Health experts recommend finding movement that fits naturally into daily routines, making it easier to maintain consistently.

Sleep is often overlooked but remains essential to good health. Adults generally benefit from seven to nine hours of quality sleep each night. Establishing a regular sleep schedule, limiting screen time before bed, and creating a calm sleep environment can improve both restfulness and daytime alertness. Poor sleep habits are linked to increased stress, weakened immunity, and reduced focus.

Mental and emotional well-being are equally important aspects of healthy living. Managing stress through mindfulness, hobbies, or time outdoors can improve resilience and overall outlook. Staying socially connected with friends, family, or community groups helps combat isolation and supports emotional health. Taking time for rest and reflection allows the body and mind to recharge.

Preventive care also plays a role in maintaining long-term health. Scheduling regular checkups, screenings, and vaccinations helps identify potential concerns early. Listening to the body and addressing issues before they escalate can prevent more serious health problems later on.

Healthy living is not about rigid rules or quick fixes. It is a lifelong approach that adapts to changing needs and circumstances. By prioritizing balanced nutrition, regular movement, adequate rest, and mental well-being, individuals can build habits that support a healthier, more fulfilling life.

THIS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

ACR Heating
ASA
Bartz Rumery
Bill Underdown / Century 21 Affiliated
Boniface
Dunes View Kwik Shop
Gorden Funeral Home
H & R Block
Hopkins Propane
James Brandess Studios & Gallery, Inc
Kabri Martyniek / State Farm Insurance
Mark Bekken / Saugatuck Harbor Insurance
Tammy Kerr / Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate
Uni-Pac
Waanders

Airing the Grievances: The Worst of Washington's Waste

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Every December, Sen. Rand Paul releases his annual Festivus Report, a nod to the fictional holiday made famous by Seinfeld. The tradition includes an "airing of grievances," and for taxpayers, there is no shortage of them.

I just got the opportunity to read the report, and as usual, I am appalled at the ridiculous items our Congress feels the need to fund.

Paul's report catalogs examples of federal spending that range from eyebrow-raising to downright absurd. While Washington often dismisses these expenditures as trivial, they reflect a deeper problem: a federal government that spends other people's money with little concern for value, accountability, or common sense.

Among the most infamous examples are research grants that seem detached from real-world needs. Taxpayer dollars have been used to study shrimp running on treadmills, whether monkeys prefer gambling to guaranteed rewards, and how stress affects Japanese quail. These projects often cost hundreds of thousands — sometimes millions — of dollars. While scientific research has its place, it is fair to ask why Americans struggling with grocery bills are funding animal experiments with no clear public benefit.

Foreign spending is another frequent offender. Festivus reports have highlighted U.S. tax dollars paying for drag shows in Ecuador, a transsexual comic book in Peru, and gender studies programs in Pakistan. In other cases, money has been spent to promote tourism in foreign countries — essentially asking American taxpayers to subsidize advertising campaigns so people can vacation somewhere else.

Closer to home, federal agencies have managed to waste staggering sums on buildings no one uses. Paul has pointed to millions spent on empty or underutilized office space, including federal buildings that sit mostly vacant while agencies continue paying rent and maintenance. In one instance, a multimillion-dollar parking garage funded by taxpayers saw little to no use after completion.

The military is not immune either. The Department of Defense has repeatedly failed financial audits, unable to account for trillions of dollars in assets. Festivus reports have cited examples such as spare parts being purchased at wildly inflated prices and equipment left unused or abandoned. While service members do their jobs with discipline and sacrifice, the bureaucracy above them often operates without basic financial controls.

Then there are the grants that simply defy explanation. Taxpayers have funded projects studying romantic habits of fish, building museums that never opened, and developing apps that were never used. Once the money is spent, few in Washington seem interested in whether the project succeeded — or even existed.

Defenders of this spending argue that these line items make up a small percentage of the federal budget. That argument misses the point. Waste is not measured only in dollars, but in trust. When citizens see their money used this way, confidence in government erodes.

The Festivus Report resonates because it exposes a pattern: programs that never end, oversight that rarely bites, and a political culture that treats taxpayer dollars as monopoly money. Meanwhile, Americans are told that deficits no longer matter, that higher taxes are unavoidable, and that fiscal restraint is unrealistic.

Before asking taxpayers for more, Washington should prove it can responsibly manage what it already takes. That means fewer shrimp on treadmills, fewer overseas vanity projects, and fewer empty buildings collecting dust on the public dime.

Until then, the airing of grievances will continue — and rightly so.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

When the holiday season began to wind down I checked the little recipe box that contained the names and addresses of people on our Christmas card list.

Every year a few new names are added. Every year a few more names get moved to the back of the box in question mark section. They are people we haven't heard from for a few years despite sending them cards. They got pulled from of the alphabetical section because it is a question whether I'll invest money on them in the future.

I find that discomforting. No doubt some of them passed away over the last few years and no one from their family sent a message with the sad news. To not know what happened to people who once put a tickle on our heart is rough.

I've read that like the big formal Christmas dinner that almost demands getting out the generation's old good China and best silver, caroling from door to door and other traditions, sending and receiving cards is beginning to fade away.

Those who know more about these things than me say it is too time-consuming to hand address the cards, too expensive and much easier to write a letter on the computer, use an AI app to be sure it is free of errors, then send it out en masse. Over and done for another year, and if someone does not respond, we hardly notice it. I am sending and receiving fewer cards than in the past.

As long as I'm coming across as an old curmudgeon, I'll pivot to another gripe: I did not get one paper calendar in the mail. In fact, I didn't find many freebies anywhere.

Finally, I found one at my favorite hardware store, where the woman behind the counter suggested I take two. Apparently, no one else was eager to take them home and she wanted to clear off more horizontal space.

My calendar is right where all good calendars belong. Two magnets are holding it to the side of the refrigerator, just enough out of sight that it might be months before I flip the pages.

In the past, most merchants and businesses handed out calendars as in-the-face reminder to renew your insurance with them, have your car fixed at their service station, and for Roman Catholics nice little icons of a fish on every Friday to not break the rules by settling into a pot roast that night.

Why bother with a paper calendar when your computer or wristwatch will give you the information? The only reason may be it's a tradition.

That, and because I never managed to get one from Danny Lundstrom when he still owned the Oslo Corner Gas, Diner and Grocery Store. He always had calendars of swimsuit-attired Norwegian models touting Norsk Hanson's Prime Lutefisk.

As a youngster I could never figure out why they always wanted to keep their Norsk calendar on a wall in the barn and then save them for decades.

Back to the Christmas cards. Until recently, it bothered me when a year or two lapsed since I last heard from someone. Were they dead? Had their minds drifted away with the fairies and they now resided at Groundhog Day Village where each day is the same as the last because continuity is a good thing?

Even more worrisome was I had said or done something, perhaps of which I was not even aware, and they took a black marker to cross me off their list.

Recently I spent an hour or so talking about this with a wise fellow who asked what I thought about the shepherds who turned up in Bethlehem, or the two fellows walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus on Easter afternoon. "How come we don't know their names?" he asked.

I rattled off the stock answer that the four gospel writers did things differently and were not interested in every little detail.

That answer didn't work with my friend. He explained that in life we have friends in two categories. The bigger category are what he called "friends along the road." The smaller but more important one is the "friends of the heart." That made a lot of sense and I liked his explanation. Then he told me to go for a walk and think about it.

I thought about it for some time. Decades ago when I was in elementary and junior high school, I had a lot of friends of the first category. I wouldn't know most of them if they walked up to me and shook my hand.

I had one friend of the heart and we still stay in contact. In high school it was the same story: even more friends along the road but only a couple of the heart and one of them died last summer.

That pattern has continued from public schools to university to my professional life. People come and go. We move far more often and to more distant places than our predecessors. We change jobs and sometimes careers, leaving behind coworkers.

Just as importantly, we do not seem to place the same value on long-term friendships as in the past. Most of the time it is disappointing, if not painful, when they move on and out of my life. It is also reality.

It is likely some of the people who counted on us being friends of the heart were disappointed when we turned out to be friends along the road.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hopefully Trump has a "Day After" plan

Editor,

About Venezuela.

Keeping oil out of the hands of our enemies is not a bad thing.

So, grabbing Maduro might be a Step One.

That was easy.

But now for the tricky bit.

At this point the concern should be what looks like the lack of a "Day After" plan.

Bush didn't have one after he announced "Mission Accomplished" which led to our involvement in a 20-year war and the birth of ISIS.

And Trump saying, "We're in charge" and "We will run the country" is not a plan and sounds an awful lot like "Nation Building" if not wishful thinking.

We can hope that the connections that would lead to a peaceful resolution were made months ago with people who knew what they were doing and need to be done (as in NOW) before internal resistance can organize. This is how it was done in Panama and Kuwait.

We can hope that Trump has already done this but then again, he's the one who said, "Trade wars are easy to win" and we know how that's working out.

David Ohmart

Reader enjoys column on Buddhist monks' trek

Well stated, Mike.

I've never hesitated to speak up (or write) when I've taken exception to Mike Wilcox's columns. My letters of disagreement have often appeared here.

My hat is tipped to him for his January 1 column on the quiet protest of the Buddhist monks and their trek across America for peace.

Indeed, shouting at one another resolves nothing. Talking and especially listening to each other is far more likely to bring about the results that serve us best.

James Cook

The Breath of the Gods

The Bookworm Sez

"The Breath of the Gods: The History and Future of the Wind"

by Simon Winchester

$35.00 • 389 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Well, you blew it.

You'd spent all that time making sure your 'do was perfect, not a hair out of place – and then you went outside. The wind took care of your work, making your head look like you'd coiffed it with an eggbeater. It billowed around your body, it stung your face, and in "The Breath of the Gods" by Simon Winchester, you need that to happen again.

Imagine trying to describe wind to a Neanderthal.

It can't be seen, but it's there. It can be heard, but sometimes it can. You can feel it, but you can't touch it. On many days, you don't notice it, and sometimes you can't miss it, like when it's ferocious enough to destroy forests, stir water, and kill. There are places on Earth where it's windy all the time and places where it's hardly ever windy, which is "unsettling."

It's believed that early humans who lived in areas of high, constant wind "tended to flourish," while those who lived in calmer places were worse off, overall. Ancient scientists in larger societies tried to understand wind and could even measure it; the Sumerians named different kinds of it as did the Chinese. Other cultures had their own names for the winds they felt, and those words entered lexicons and literature.

Still, Winchester says, "only wind's consequences are visible, not the wind itself."

Wind can carry smoke from hundreds of miles away, and it can carry deadly radiation over continents. It's the only way some plants can spread seeds. Wind can destroy, it can be put to work, and it needs constant watching because it changes. It can ruin broadcasts, make music both naturally and through instruments, assist flight, heat and cool, move a ship (or help sink it), and change the outcome of a war.

And, says Winchester, on at least one occasion, wind moved tons of land from middle America to the east coast, changing the country forever…

Outside, trees sway, snowflakes look like ants scurrying through the air, and the reason for it often goes unheeded. Chances are, in fact, that you don't much think about wind unless it's biting, strong, or remarkable, like a tornado, hurricane, or windchill. But now's the time to read "The Breath of the Gods," and you'll never go outside again without noticing that thing you cannot see.

Just beware: though the book's first few pages are rough-going, they set the tone for a promise. Author Simon Winchester takes readers on a breezy journey from ancient caves to modern meteorological laboratories, in equal parts history and science, with an easy-to-grasp narrative. Promise: you won't be overwhelmed. Instead, you'll find tales that will make you informed, things that could terrify you, and facts that might make your life a little easier.

Armchair meteorologists and weather-watchers will need this book in their laps this week. So will history lovers and readers of offbeat subjects, and if you're concerned about climate change, grab "The Breath of the Gods."

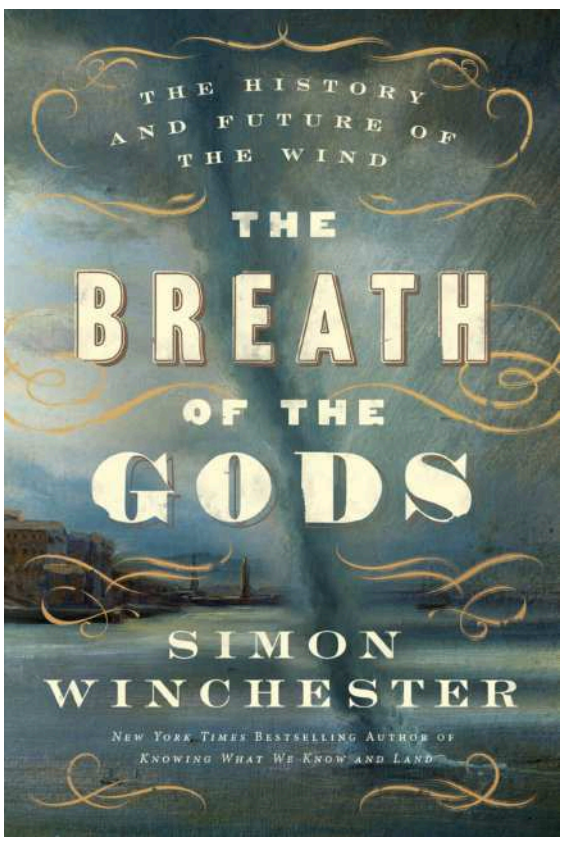
It's a fascinating way to blow some time.

The Bookworm is Terri Schlichenmeyer.

Terri has been reading since she was 3 years old and she never goes anywhere without a book.

All the books the Bookworm reviews here are available at the sponsor of this column:

Allegan District Library


THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF THE WIND
THE BREATH OF THE GODS
SIMON WINCHESTER
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF KNOWING WHAT WE KNOW AND LAND

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

© The Allegan County News, 2026

P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St.
Allegan, MI 49010-0189 (269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Allegan County News. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $55 per year in county; $55 per year in Michigan; $70 out of state; Foreign rates upon request. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010. Postal Publication No. 013-700. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Allegan County News, P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010-0189.

the UE Otsego & Plainwell UNION ENTERPRISE

© The Union Enterprise, 2026

P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan, MI 49010-0189
(269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Union Enterprise. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $55 per year in Allegan County. $55 in Michigan; $70 out of state. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010 and at additional mailing office Postal Publication No. 413600. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Union Enterprise, P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan MI 49010

R. Michael Wilcox, Publisher
Jason Wesseldyk, High School Sports Editor
Julie Hotchkiss, Accounts Receivable
Matt Gliwa, Graphic Artist
Jordan Wilcox, IT Support
Lynn Jensen - Sales

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Member

ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

The Allegan County News and Union Enterprise will in no case be responsible for typographical or other errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs. The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any material at any time. The right is reserved to reject, omit or edit any material offered for publication.

Obituaries

Candace Barbara Statler

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Candace Barbara Statler.

To the world she was just another face or just Candy, but to us she was the foundation of our family, the true glue which held all of us together as one.

Candace, who went by Candy, was born August 8th, 1949 to her parents Dorthy and Gerald Reynolds. She met the love of her life, Charles Statler, in the year of 1984, then married him May 26, 1994. She had the privilege of being a mother to four children; Jennifer Billman (Mathew), Meredith Bacon (Ronny), David Kay (Wendy), and Gerald Kay. She succeeded in motherhood but truly embraced becoming a grandmother in 1991 and loved her grandchildren unconditionally; Kelly Brooks (Lee), Travis Wells (Rachel), Calsey Whitt, Mathew Sheldon, Jared Kay, and Camron

Candace Barbara Statler

Kay. Candy soon became a great grandmother in 2011 which filled her heart with even more joy and love; Alexis Higgins, Maddison Higgins, Allison Madalinski, Natalee Brooks, Trinity Wells, and Trenton Baker.

Candy was devout Christian who accepted Jesus fully into her heart in 2003. She went to church regularly where she shared her love of Christ with everyone. She enjoyed her daily morning cup of coffee, and you'd know when she was on her way for it by the sound of her slippers against the floor. She enjoyed being out in nature whether fishing or just relaxing in some shade and having a little chat about whatever came across her mind. She was a great chef in the kitchen but her desserts were always the best from her chocolate cakes to her no bake cookies.

In the early morning of December 20, 2025, Candy took her last breath on earth. Her soul gained its wings, she joined hands with her late husband, and entered through Heaven's gates. Although her passing will forever leave an emptiness in all of our hearts, we as a family are happy to know she and her beloved husband, Charlie, are once again together at peace.

Margaret Ann (Lemoin) Leber

Margaret Ann (Lemoin) Leber, age 89, passed peacefully from this life surrounded by her family on December 15th at Briarwood Assisted Living in Allegan, Michigan. Margaret was born on May 16th, 1936 in Allegan to the late Miles and Louise (Davis) Lemoin and was the youngest of their two daughters, joining older sister Mary. She was known to classmates and family as "Nuggie", a nickname from her beloved father who called her his little nugget of gold. Margaret graduated from Allegan High School in 1954 and enjoyed life-long relationships with classmates and had fun memories of playing clarinet in the high school marching band. She married Ron Leber in 1955 and began life on the Leber family farm in Monterey Township. Margaret worked for many years at the ARC of Allegan and enjoyed working with the developmentally disabled. She liked traveling with them on their annual field trips around the Midwest and was beloved by her charges, many of

Margaret Ann Leber

whom called her "Mom". Margaret was the church secretary for decades at the First Presbyterian Church in Allegan and was a constant fixture at church events. She also worked at Alexanders in Allegan and several other gift shops. She was a prolific cook and baker, and was known for her cookies, pies, and especially her cakes. If you are of a certain age in Allegan, chances are you attended a wedding or graduation party that had one of her beautiful cakes. She was a talented counted cross stitcher who won ribbons at the Fair, ceramic artist and instructor, and creator of beautiful hand-made wreaths for the gift shop at her family's Christmas tree farm. Margaret truly enjoyed talking with people, especially children, and took great delight in greeting everyone during tree sale season. She loved her children Rick, Stevie, and Theresa above all else, and had a special relationship with her granddaughter, Sara.

Margaret is survived by her children Rick Leber (Leslie), Theresa Ashley (Mark), granddaughter Sara, special friend Charlie Riess, and nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Ron, son Stevie, and sister Mary Gates.

The family will receive friends at Gorden Funeral Residence, Allegan Chapel on Saturday, December 20, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. A funeral service will begin at 11:00 AM with burial to follow at Poplar Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the ARC of Allegan, 219 Hubbard Street, Allegan, MI 49010.

Joyce Marie (Wright) Turner

Joyce Marie (Wright) Turner of Fennville, MI, went to be with the Lord on December 29, 2025. Joyce was born to her late parents Lloyd and Lillian (Orr) Wright on May 3, 1945, in Dowagiac, MI. After graduating from Fennville High School Class of 1963, Joyce would become a Licensed Practical Nurse through the Borgess Hospital program in Kalamazoo. She started her nursing career at a local nursing home followed by a brief time at Holland Hospital before joining Plainwell Pipp Hospital as a surgical nurse from 1975 – 1993. She went on to finish her nursing career at Holland Hospital from 1993 - 2015, before retiring. Joyce was a Charter Member of the Community Church of Douglas. While she loved to volunteer at the church, she especially loved singing in the church choir where she was a member for years. She also enjoyed working at the annual church Christmas Bazaar knitting and making Christmas decora-

Joyce Marie Turner

tions and baked goods for all to enjoy. Joyce was the president of the Fennville Band Boosters for a few years while her daughters were in the Fennville High School band. Joyce was also an integral part in organizing the Fennville Goose Festival in its early years. Her personal hobbies involved canning fruit, working in the yard, and baking for her family. Above all else, she loved being a mom and grandma, cherishing family time. There was nothing she liked more than watching her grandsons play baseball on the weekends. She was the best cheerleader for her entire family.

She is survived by her children Lisa (Dr. Jon) Walsh, Selena Turner, and Stephanie Turner; sister Sharon Loos; grandchildren Aidan (Jill) Walsh, Lucas Walsh, Connor Walsh, and Liam Walsh; great-granddaughter Addison Marie Walsh; and many well-loved nieces, nephews and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents and sister Patricia Rorick, her niece Dawn Leslie and great niece Courtney Rorick.

Joyce's Memorial Service will start at 11:00 AM with an hour's visitation beforehand from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM on Saturday, January 10, at Chappell Funeral Home, 637 West Main Street, Fennville, MI 49408.

Memorial donations may be made in Joyce's name to Michigan Chapter Folds of Honor P.O. Box 73, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

Pete Curtis

Pete Curtis made his "last call' on Dec. 20, 2025.

Pete was born July 30, 1946, in Jackson and grew up in Pier Cove. After graduating from Fennville High, he spent time at Michigan State University, in the U.S. Army, and earned a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Lansing Community College.

After working in Lexington, Ky., he came back to Saugatuck where he worked and loved life at The Sand Bar Saloon as bartender/manager/booker of bands/doer of whatever needed to be done, for over three decades.

He also found time to have fun with family, proving victorious in the 1986 Pier Cove Croquet Tournament.

Pete was predeceased by father Bob Fox, parents

Pete Curtis

Ann and Ernie Curtis and sister Maripat.

He is survived by sister Betsy Ann Foster (Mike) and brother Ric Curtis (Natalie). Also, nieces and nephews Wil, Mariah, Tom (Stacy), Marc (Arlene), Ann (Troy) and Curtis, and a whole host of Curtis cousins.

Olivia, Reed, Owen and Pierson will miss their "Grunkle" (great uncle) Pete. The extended Sand Bar family will certainly feel his loss as well.

Today's Commercial Record would rival the New York Times in page count if everyone in Saugatuck submitted their favorite Pete story, and all can probably hear Pete's laugh as clearly as if he was still in the room.

For you Wolverine fans, please find it in your heart to cheer for the Spartans basketball team in at least one game this season.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. Donations may be made in Pete's memory to Wings Home Hospice, 330 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010.

Kathy J. Keene

Kathy J. Keene passed away December 28th, 2025, at Butterworth Heart Center in Grand Rapids. Surrounded by her sister Carrie and her Pastor and friends at the age of 67. Kathy J. Austin was born August 2, 1958, in Allegan General Hospital. She was born to Lee & Molly Austin. And later sister to Carrie Austin. All through school she was a model student and her teachers enjoyed her. She was very good at sports, had many friends and hung out with them whenever she could. She was also a musician and played the piano for years, the clarinet in school, and the guitar. In 1976-77 she drove out to Santa Maria, California by herself to live with a girlfriend for about a year. She loved it out there and got a temporary job at a gas station. She loved the sun so much that she even

Kathy J. Keene

laid out in the fog one day while in Florida visiting our folks. She moved back to Allegan where she continued her relationship with Dennis R. Keene and they got married on October 22, 1977, at the First Congregational Church in Allegan. He was the best thing that ever happened to her. They went on trips out west and had great times together and with friends. They loved mudding and two-tracking in the woods. Dennis was 6' 4" and she was 5' 4". They made quite a couple. They lived in a little cottage on Baseline Lake and then later moved into a trailer in Dumont Creek Estates, Allegan. Unfortunately, two years after they were married Dennis passed away from the Lou Gehrig disease – ALS, the deadliest form of Muscular Dystrophy. Kathy continued her life alone but still had many friends and relatives to keep her busy, along with her 20-year job at L. Perrigo as a team member and then a line leader. After that she worked in various homes for Adult Foster Care. Kathy had her challenges, many ups and downs but she held on. She will be missed by many.

THIS IS YOUR SIGN...
Mom & Dad Can Keep Exploring the World
The best stories start after retirement!
At Golden Orchards, residents' golden years can be filled with bold adventures, new besties, and a renewed sense of purpose. We invite residents to awaken their curiosity every day with us as they explore the world's cultures from their doorstep.
Where will the next adventure take them?
Schedule a Day in the Life to find out.
269-737-6867
Golden Orchards
MANAGED BY COMMONWEALTH SENIOR LIVING
Assisted Living & Memory Care
2464 55th Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408
Great Place To Work. Certified
www.CommonwealthSL.com

ALLEGAN COUNTY
Senior Services
Independence Through Transportation Services
Senior Transportation
Seniors who no longer feel comfortable driving can access this service for medical, legal appointments, shopping, and errands. Depending on mobility needs, transportation is available on wheelchair-accessible buses or through volunteer drivers who assist with home entry, exiting, and carrying packages.
Call 269-686-5164 to arrange for this service. Please allow 3-5 business days advance notice for scheduling.
If you or a family member is in need of support services please visit: www.allegancounty.org/Referral or call: (269) 673-3333

BLIZZARD BOOK BINGO
GRAND PRIZE
GRAND PRIZE
GRAND PRIZE
GRAND PRIZE
$10 gift card to the Friends of Ransom Library Booksale Room
Book Basket
Mini Booknook Craft Bookshelf Decor
Reading Candle
Faux Stained Glass Window Hanging
Book Blanket
COMPLETE YOUR BINGO BOARD BY FEBRUARY 28 AND BE ENTERED INTO THE GRAND PRIZE
THE WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED MONDAY, MARCH 2

Adult Blizzard Book BINGO returns to Ransom District Library

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The weather outside has been frightful, making it the perfect time to curl up with a good book. Ransom District Library is once again giving readers an extra reason to turn the page with its annual Adult Blizzard Book BINGO challenge.

Adults can stop by the library to pick up a BINGO board and begin reading their way through the squares during the winter months. Participants who complete three squares by February 28 will receive a Ransom District Library winter hat.

Those who complete the entire BINGO board will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing, which features a book-lover's basket packed with cozy and creative items. The grand prize includes a book-themed blanket, a faux stained glass window hanging, a "reading time" candle, a mini booknook craft bookshelf décor piece, and a $10 gift card to the Friends of Ransom District Library Booksale Room.

The winner of the grand prize will be announced Monday, March 2.

For more information or questions about the Adult Blizzard Book BINGO challenge, readers are encouraged to contact the library. And, as always, happy reading.

Plainwell announces 2026 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Plainwell High School Athletic Hall of Fame will welcome its newest class on Friday, Jan. 16. The five members of that class—whose excellence, leadership, and dedication have left a lasting impact on Trojan athletics—are:

* Bill Switzer: coach, wrestling
* Shannon Cunningham (Carrier): athlete, volleyball, basketball and soccer
* Sarah Owens (Morrell): athlete, basketball and soccer
* Dalton Smith: athlete, wrestling
* Kyle Farris: athlete/coach, soccer

The induction ceremony will take place at Plainwell High School and will be held between the girls and boys varsity basketball games.

Community members, alumni, and fans are encouraged to attend and help celebrate the newest members of the Plainwell High School Athletic Hall of Fame and congratulate them on this well-deserved honor.

PLAINWELL ATHLETICS
HALL OF FAME
2026 INDUCTEES
Join us between the Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball Games as we celebrate the newest members of the Plainwell Athletics Hall of Fame!
Friday, January 16
PCS Field House
6:45 (approximately)
Between the Boys & Girls Varsity Basketball Games

City of Plainwell

Planning Commission
Notice of Public Hearing

Please take notice that a Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:30PM at the Plainwell City Hall, 211 N. Main Street, Plainwell, Michigan.

The Planning Commission will consider a Special Use Permit Application for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) submitted by:

Amanda and Stephen Czarnecki
413 W Bridge St
Plainwell, MI 49080

Said property is located in the City of Plainwell, County of Allegan, State of Michigan and more specifically described as:

413 W Bridge St
Plainwell, MI 49080
Parcel Number 55-380-002-00

And also, such other and further matters as may come before said public hearing.

All interested parties will be given the opportunity to express their views on the proposed special use prior to action being taken. Written comments or questions may be directed to JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk at Plainwell City Hall, 211 N Main St, Plainwell, MI 49080.

City of Plainwell Planning Commission
By: JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

Plainwell Volunteer Christmas Project serves record number of families

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

It was another successful—and record-setting—year for the Plainwell Volunteer Christmas Project.

With the support of the Plainwell community, the PVCP assisted 201 families, representing 842 people, during the 2025 holiday season. The total marks the largest year in the program's history.

Organizers credited the project's success to the efforts of 143 volunteers, including community members and many students, who gave up the first day of their winter holiday break to help sort and prepare items for delivery. Their work ensured families across the Plainwell Community Schools district received support during the Christmas season.

Special thanks were also extended to the many individuals, businesses, and organizations who donated to the project. Each contribution—large or small—played an important role in making the effort possible.

The Plainwell Volunteer Christmas Project has been serving families in the Plainwell School District since 1973, with the mission of helping reduce stress during the holidays and reminding families of the joy of the season.

Organizers thanked everyone who helped make the 2025 PVCP a success, noting that their support made a meaningful impact on hundreds of lives during the holiday season.

Getting ready for Snocoming '26

Although school didn't officially start back up after Christmas break until the following day, several members of the Otsego High School Student Council were back at OHS on Sunday, Jan. 4, decorating the hallways for the annual Snocoming festivities.

The Snocoming games will be Friday, Jan. 9, when the boys and girls basketball teams host archrival Plainwell.

The theme for this year is decades, with each class highlighting a different era. (Photos provided)

BREWSTER'S
FINE FOOD & SPIRITS
1420 M89, OTSEGO • 269-694-1818
DINE IN & TAKE OUT
HOURS
Wed.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
Fri.-Sat. 11am-10pm
Sun. 12pm-7pm
Kitchen closes 1/2 hour before the bar.
Potato Wedges
only $2.99 per order
EXTRA SIDES
• Cole Slaw • Baked Beans
• Potato Salad • Cottage Cheese
• French Fries • Garlic Mashed Potatoes
$2.75
BONE-IN BROASTED
CHICKEN
GRAB & GO
by the piece, box or bucket!
AVAILABLE
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
11AM TO 6PM
Call ahead for large orders!
By the box/bucket
4 piece $7.75
8 piece $13.99
16 piece $27.75
32 piece $55.00
By the piece
Leg $2.00
Thigh $2.00
Wing $2.00
Breast $3.00

B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS
First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest
Award-winning Newspaper
Best Sports Column
Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026

Clippers' comeback falls short against Saranac

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—A frantic fourth-quarter comeback attempt fell just short for the Martin boys basketball team in its home game with Saranac on Monday, Jan. 5.

Down 41-25 entering the final stanza, the Clippers held a 19-7 scoring edge during the final eight minutes of play to fall by a score of 48-44.

It's a scenario Martin coach Corby Callaway has seen several times thus far this season.

"This has been the story of our season so far," said Callaway, whose team fell to 2-6. "We dig a huge hole in the first half and then fight back in the second."

Despite being disappointed with the result, Callaway was pleased with the grit displayed by his team.

"I'm proud of how we continued to battle when nothing was going right in the first half," he said. "But I've got to find a way to have our guys ready to go from the jump."

Blake Sweeting led the Clippers with 11 points, four steals and four blocks. Ethan Fitzpatrick and Jason Marshall added eight points each, with Marshall also going for four rebounds and four steals.

Jackson Kennedy chipped in with five points, six rebounds and three blocks.

Martin also took part in the Mendon Holiday Tournament.

After dropping a 63-41 decision against Galesburg-Augusta on Tuesday, Dec. 30, the Clippers rebounded to claim the 42-37 victory over Marcellus on Friday, Jan. 2.

In both games, the Clippers were playing a bit shorthanded due to illness

"We showed a lot of grit today," Callaway said after the Marcellus win. "We weren't at full strength, but we battled all day."

Martin trailed 14-6 after one quarter and 23-13 at halftime. But a 13-8 edge in the third quarter helped the Clippers narrow the gap to 31-26 before a 16-6 fourth-quarter run sealed the comeback.

"We kept our composure and executed way better in the second half," Callaway said.

Fitzpatrick scored 18 points to go with five rebounds and three steals. Sweeting had eight points, eight rebounds and three blocks, while Weson Elkins went for seven points, four rebounds, four assists and five steals.

"Ethan did a great job of making baskets when we needed them and Wes did a little bit of everything for us," Callaway said. "Blake almost had a double-double playing limited minutes because of illness.

"It was a great win for us to start the new year."

In the Galesburg-Augusta game, Martin fell behind 24-9 after one quarter and couldn't recover.

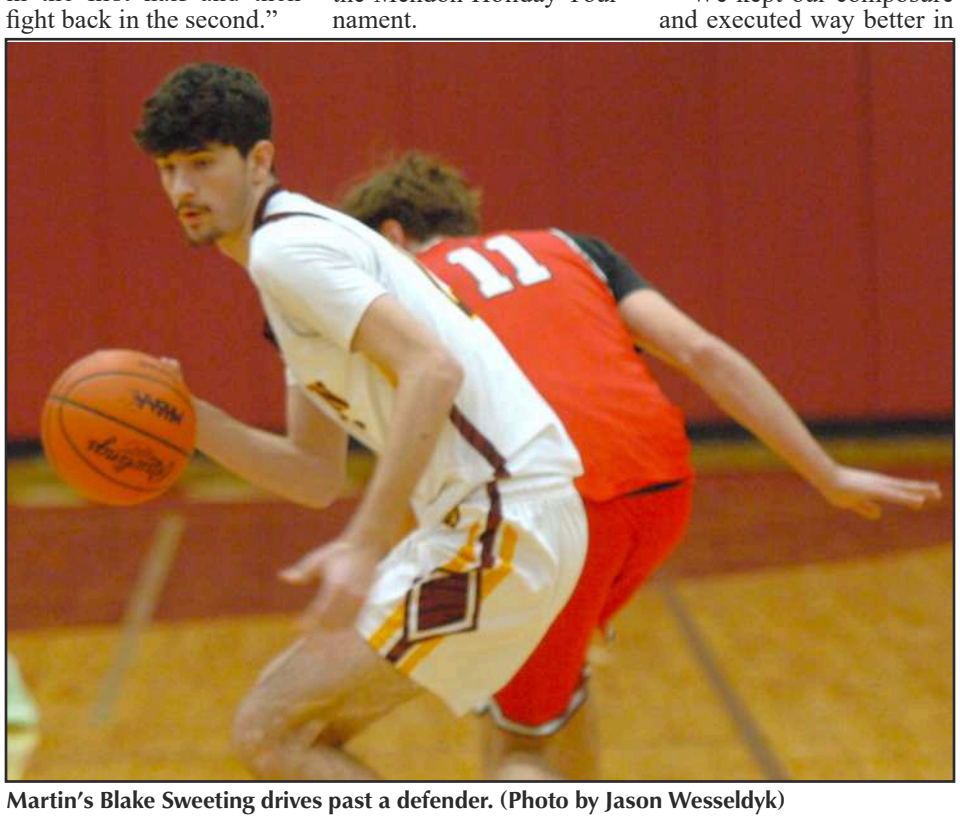
"Galesburg is a really good team," Callaway said.

Fitzpatrick shined in the loss with 22 points.

"Ethan carried us on the offensive end tonight," Callaway said.

Caleb Hopkins added six points and a team-best 11 rebounds. Marshall went for five points, four steals and three assists.

"Caleb Hopkins did a great job stepping into a starting spot and having a career high in rebounds," Callaway said. "We've just got to get our turnovers under control if we want to win these types of games."



Martin's Blake Sweeting drives past a defender. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martin's Weson Elkins looks for an open teammate during the Saranac game. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martin girls cruise to win over Athens

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—Playing for the first time in nearly three weeks, the Martin girls basketball team seemed to be firing on all cylinders when the Clippers traveled to Athens on Monday, Jan. 5.

Led by a game-best 16 points from Anna Jager, Martin cruised to the 45-16 victory.

First-year Clippers coach Eric Zudweg was particularly pleased with his team's play on the defensive end of the floor.

Martin limited Athens to six or fewer points in each of the four quarters.

"Our defense was solid all night and really set the tone for us," Zugweg said.

The Clippers led 13-2 after one quarter, with Alley Bacon and Torryn Harris each scoring four points in the stanza.

The lead stood at 21-8 at halftime and 35-12 at the end of three quarters.

Harris added 12 points in the win, while Bacon and Kayden Jager had seven and six points respectively.

"Overall for our first game in almost three weeks, I thought we looked sharp, played tough on the defensive side of things and shot the ball well from the outside," Zugweg said.

Richie Jordan's legacy lives on across generations

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

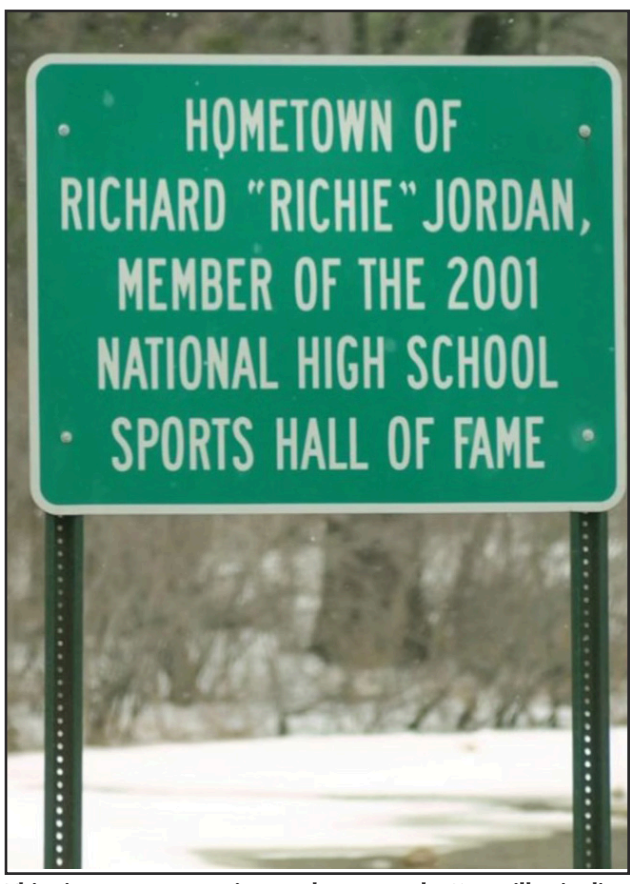
For generations of sports fans in Allegan County, the name Richie Jordan has meant something special — a standard of athletic excellence that still stands among the best the area has ever seen.

Long before recruiting rankings, social media highlights and year-round specialization, Jordan was redefining what a high school athlete could be at Fennville, earning national recognition and a place in the National High School Hall of Fame.

More than half a century later, the standard he set in Fennville is still being measured—and, in some ways, still being lived through subsequent generations of Jordans.

Jordan's accomplishments at Fennville High School from 1961–65 remain nearly unmatched in Michigan prep history.

A four-sport standout in football, basketball, baseball and track, he earned 16 varsity letters and became a national sensation despite standing just 5-foot-7. He packed gymnasiums, defied expectations and earned the nickname "Fennville Flash" for his ability to dominate games in ways few athletes ever have.



This sign greets motorists as they enter the Fennville city limits. (File photo)

On the basketball court, Jordan's senior season became the stuff of legend. He averaged a Michigan High School Athletic Association record 44.4 points per game—a mark that still stands decades later—and scored 60 points in a regional championship loss that remains one of the most iconic performances in state history.

That season, Jordan's scoring average ranked first nationally among high school players, ahead of future legends such as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Pete Maravich. Yet when Jordan has reflected on that year, the record has never been the first thing he mentions.

Despite the individual accolades, Fennville fell short of a state championship, and Jordan has long said he would have gladly traded the scoring title for a team trophy.

That perspective — valuing team success over personal recognition — became one of the defining traits of his legacy.

Jordan's versatility carried beyond high school. He went on to compete in both basketball and baseball at Michigan State University, including a Big Ten championship season on the basketball court.

After college, a professional baseball opportunity with the Pittsburgh Pirates was cut short by injury, but his connection to athletics never faded.

Eventually, Jordan settled in Florida, where he remained involved in sports as a strength and conditioning coach and mentor at Cardinal Mooney High School. Even away from Michigan, the competitive standard that defined his career remained intact.

That standard carried directly into the next generation through his son, Mick Jordan.

Mick went on to establish an impressive athletic legacy of his own at Cardinal Mooney, becoming the school's all-time leading scorer in boys basketball with 2,069 points during his career from 1994–98.

While his path differed from his father's multi-sport dominance, the same competitive qualities were evident — consistency, toughness and an ability to perform when it mattered most.

Together, Richie and Mick Jordan formed a rare father-son athletic lineage, one built not on momentary success but on sustained excellence across eras and locations.

That lineage has now reached another generation.

Mick's son, Mason Jordan, has carved out his own role on the football field at Cardinal Mooney, where he is a senior wide receiver for a program that has become a perennial state contender. A three-year contributor, Mason was part of a state championship team in 2023 and has continued to be a steady presence in the Cougars' offense.

Over the course of his career, Mason has contributed as a slot receiver, return man and occasional rusher, posting his most productive season this fall with 608 receiving yards and five touchdowns while helping Cardinal Mooney make another deep postseason run.

His role reflects a familiar theme within the Jordan family — versatility, reliability and a team-first mindset.

The Jordan family's athletic reach extends even further. Mason's other grandfather, John Neidert, was a Super Bowl III champion linebacker with the New York Jets.

This photo shows Richie Jordan during his time at Michigan State. (Photo provided)

But for folks in Allegan County, it is Richie Jordan's name—and what it represents—that continues to resonate most strongly.

Great athletic careers often fade as time passes and new names take their place. Records are broken. Memories blur.

Richie Jordan's legacy has endured.

It lives on in record books and Hall of Fame honors, in the accomplishments of his son, and now in the continued presence of the Jordan name on a football field.

The setting may be different, and the era certainly has changed, but the standard established decades ago in Fennville remains unmistakable.

In that sense, the story of Richie Jordan was never confined to one generation. It was built to last.

Hamilton wrestlers have another busy day

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

DETROIT—The Detroit Catholic Central Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 3, featured some of the best high school wrestlers in the state.

A pair of Hamilton grapplers were included in that group.

Bryce Morrison emerged as the tournament champ at 150 pounds, while Chase Morrison placed third at 126 pounds.

On the way to his title, Bryce Morrison posted wins over three ranked wrestlers: Division 3 No. 14 at 150, Division 1 No. 10 at 157 and Division 1 No. 7 at 150.

For his efforts, he was named Most Outstanding Wrestler for the upper weights.

Chase Morrison also bested three ranked opponents: Division 1 No. 9 at 132, Division 2 No. 10 at 126 and Division 1 No. 7 at 126.

"It was an outstanding effort for those guys," Hamilton coach Trenton Holyfield said.

The rest of the varsity team was at the Three Rivers Duals, with Hamilton finishing at 2-3.

The Hawkeyes best Otsego (40-36) and Lawton (41-24) and fell to Niles (60-21), Three Rivers (73-6) and Middleville (65-18).

"I saw effort, I saw guys fighting through tough positions and stepping on the mat even when they were nervous and competing for their teammates," Holyfield said. "That takes courage. Wins are the reward, but growth is the goal and growth doesn't always show up on the scoreboard right away.

"If we choose to learn from our mistakes instead of letting it beat us down, then it was not a failure. It was fuel."

Top individual performances for Hamilton included Weston Geerlings, who went 4-0 at 113 pounds. Bronden Van Wieren (126), Austin Paskvan (150) AND Tyler Block (165) each went 3-2.

Bryce Morrison (right) and Chase Morrison (left) both excelled at the Detroit Catholic Central Invitational for Hamilton. (Photo provided)

Fennville girls come up just short

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

It was a back-and-forth game when the Fennville girls basketball team hosted Delton on Monday, Jan. 5.

Ultimately, the Blackhawks fell short by a 42-40 score.

Amiyah Johnson paced Fennville with 15 points. Veda Seward added nine points and seven rebounds, while Adrian Hicks snagged a team-best 10 rebounds.

Ceeley Howard added seven points.

Fennville led 13-11 after one quarter, trailed 19-17 at halftime and was up 30-27 at the end of three quarters.

Strong start carries Hamilton girls to win

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HAMILTON—Following a 16-day hiatus for Christmas break, the Hamilton girls basketball team returned to action on Saturday, Jan. 3.

And a successful return it was, as the Hawkeyes prevailed 56-34.

A fast start keyed the win, as Hamilton led 20-5 after one quarter and 28-12 at halftime.

Brooke Petroelje scored a team-best 17 points in the victory.

Leah Brink and Paige Kleinheksel added eight points, followed by Kelsey Mersman and Sarah Brink with seven points each.

MHSAA postseason attendance remains near 1.4 million

Attendance at Michigan High School Athletic Association postseason tournaments remained near 1.4 million spectators for the third straight school year in 2024-25. An overall attendance record in baseball and several additional all-time bests for specific tournament rounds helped keep totals among the highest in recent history.

In total, MHSAA Tournament events drew 1,397,574 spectators at competitions for which admission is charged. That figure includes all MHSAA-sponsored sports except golf, skiing and tennis, for which single tickets are not sold during postseason play.

The total attendance represented a decrease of 3.6 percent from the 2023-24 school year. Even so, it marked the third-highest overall attendance over the past eight school years.

Attendance at girls postseason events totaled 453,320 spectators during the 2024-25 school year. That figure was a 3.9-percent decrease from the record-setting total in 2023-24 but still ranked second-highest over the last eight years.

Boys postseason attendance totaled 944,254 spectators, a decrease of 3.4 percent from the previous year. Baseball, however, set an overall tournament attendance record with 65,150 spectators.

Baseball also established attendance records at the District level with 38,086 spectators and at the Quarterfinals with 7,517. Attendance increased from the previous year at every round of the baseball postseason.

Overall attendance totals also increased from 2023-24 in ice hockey, team wrestling, gymnastics, boys soccer and girls swimming & diving postseason tournaments. Ice hockey set records at both its Semifinals (7,758 spectators) and Finals (7,857).

Boys soccer established a District-round attendance record with 18,219 spectators. Team wrestling also set a Finals attendance record with 11,604 fans.

Football remained the most-attended MHSAA Tournament sport, drawing 361,139 spectators during the playoff series. That figure represented a decrease of just over a half-percent from the previous year but included the highest Finals turnout (44,535) since the 2019-20 season.

Boys basketball ranked second overall in attendance with 251,668 spectators. It was followed by girls basketball (145,313) and girls volleyball (110,927).

Track & field drew 41,418 spectators, while softball attracted 47,763. Both sports posted their second-highest attendances on record after setting all-time highs during the 2023-24 school year.

Martin leads area schools in multi-sport participation

Martin High School is among the state's leaders in multi-sport participation, according to the Michigan High School Athletic Association's latest Multi-Sport Participation Survey, which shows continued growth statewide during the 2024-25 school year.

The survey, conducted last spring, marked the seventh time the MHSAA has measured multi-sport participation among athletes at its member high schools. Results again showed small but steady growth, continuing a positive trend that has now spanned every year of the study.

Haylen Buell is one of many multi-sport athletes at Martin. (File photo)

The annual survey was inspired by the MHSAA's Task Force on Multi-Sport Participation, which was appointed in 2016 to study early and intense sport specialization — a growing concern related to health and safety at all levels of youth sports. The task force promotes multi-sport participation as a way to help reduce overuse injuries and burnout, which have been linked to chronic injuries and health-related problems later in life.

The 2024-25 Multi-Sport Participation Survey received responses from 82.7 percent of MHSAA member high schools and showed that 45.4 percent of athletes at those schools participated in two or more sports. That figure represents an increase of six-tenths of a percent from the 2023-24 school year. Overall, multi-sport participation has increased every year since the study began, with a combined increase of 2.6 percent since the first survey following the 2017-18 school year.

For the 2024-25 school year, 47.8 percent of male athletes and 42.3 percent of female athletes competed in multiple sports. As in previous years, the percentage of multi-sport athletes remained inversely proportional to school enrollment. Class D schools again posted the highest percentage of multi-sport athletes at 63.1 percent, followed by Class C schools (59.6 percent), Class B schools (49.3 percent) and Class A schools (38.5 percent).

All four enrollment classifications continued to show increases or sustained levels of multi-sport participation. Class A participation rose three-tenths of a percent from the previous year and is now up 2.6 percent from 2017-18 survey results. Class B increased 1.3 percent from 2023-24 and is also up 2.6 percent since the first survey. Class C participation grew two-tenths of a percent from the previous year and sits 4.4 percent higher than in the initial study, while Class D participation remained steady from 2023-24 and has grown five percent over the last seven years.

The MHSAA task force also recommended using the survey to recognize schools that exceed participation norms. Several schools have consistently ranked among the top 10 percent of their respective classes since the survey began.

Battle Creek Harper Creek, Detroit Cody and Grand Rapids Northview have appeared among the top 10 percent of their classes in six of the seven years the survey has been conducted. Decatur, East Grand Rapids, Manton and Warren Michigan Collegiate have each appeared five times, while Detroit Douglass, Parma Western and Lake Leelanau St. Mary have ranked in the top 10 percent four times apiece.

Among the top performers in the 2024-25 survey was Class C school Martin, which ranked second in its class with 89.7 percent of athletes participating in multiple sports.

Jackson Lumen Christi topped Class C at 97.6 percent. Following Martin were Bad Axe (89.3 percent), Cass City (88.6 percent), Center Line Prep Academy (83.6 percent) and Decatur (82.3 percent), as six Class C schools reached at least 80 percent participation for the second straight year.

Across the state, Class A schools were led by Grand Rapids Northview, which posted the highest percentage in the class at 79.4 percent. Macomb L'Anse Creuse North followed at 70 percent, while Detroit Cass Tech (61.4 percent) and Sterling Heights Stevenson (60.7 percent) also reported at least 60 percent participation.

In Class B, Warren Michigan Collegiate paced the field with 91.3 percent of athletes playing multiple sports. Other top Class B programs included Tecumseh (77.7 percent), Yale (76.6 percent), Detroit Cody (71.4 percent), Battle Creek Harper Creek (71.3 percent) and Manistee (70.1 percent).

Watervliet Grace Christian led Class D at 93.8 percent, with Watersmeet (89.7 percent), Lake Leelanau St. Mary (88.2 percent), Detroit Douglass (87.8 percent), Vestaburg (87.7 percent) and Portland St. Patrick (87.3 percent) rounding out the list of top programs.

The full summary report from the Multi-Sport Participation Survey is available on the "Multi-Sports Benefits" page of the MHSAA website.

We sell and install TVs and Home Theaters

Professional instalation at your home or business

A-Tech
COMPUTERS + MORE

311 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI
(269) 783-5465
atechccs@gmail.com
atechccs.com

Douglas man is pickleball champion

Peter Colvin of Douglas and doubles partner Mark Mark Kenworthy of Grand Rapids, who qualified for the U.S. Senior Pickleball Nationals Dec. 5-9 in Daytona Beach by winning the Northern Regionals Doubles Tournament. But they placed just ninth.

"It wasn't the result we had hoped for," said Colvin. "We played hard and had some good wins but lost to a couple very good doubles teams.

"Mark and I both thought we might have been able to beat them on a better day. It was pretty frustrating," he went on.

However, Colvin channeled his frustrations the very next day as he competed for the Legends Age 65-69 National Singles Crown and took them out on his opponents.

Six matches later, he was crowned Skill Level 3.0 Pickleball National Champion.

"What a fun day it was," said Colvin. "One I will always remember.

"Right before the first match, the rain stopped and it became pretty windy," he went on. "I changed my strategy at the last minute to use the wind to my advantage.

"My days playing high school tennis on the courts at Caledonia High School, surrounded then by cornfields, were always windy," Colvin remembered. "I learned how to use the wind to my advantage back then and it came in handy during the Singles Championship.

"I went into 'the zone' on the first point of the first match and stayed in it for the first five matches, winning them all, beating both the first- and second-seeded players in the process.

"With one more match to go, I thought to myself 'Wow, one more win and I will be a national champion!'"

Not so fast. "When the final match started," Colvin continued, "my aggressive opponent literally blew me off the court with his lethal forehand and I got behind quickly. I called a time out and spent the two minutes to think of how I could stop his attacks and turn the match around before it was too late.

"I took some deep breaths to calm down," he recalled the process, "and closed my eyes to visualize my shot patterns, reminding myself to use the wind and to try to stay away from his forehand.

"It was a good time out. I came back on the court and my opponent never got another point.

"When I was a kid," said the newly-crowned pickleball poobah, "practicing my tennis strokes against the big concrete wall, I used to hit the last shot as hard as I could and then put my arms up in the air (like Rocky Balboa) and dance around with nobody watching, saying out loud 'Peter Colvin wins the national championship!'

"Some 60 years later, though no dancing was involved, I got to experience it for real.

"During the medal ceremony, when the tournament director was placing the gold medal around my neck, he quietly said to me 'Peter, for the rest of your life, you will be a national champion.' I got chills."

"After the ceremony, when all the people had left the area, I sat on the podium and took a minute to quietly dedicate the title to my Mom and Dad in heaven, my wife Deb and our two sons, Chris and Cody, all pickleball addicts as well," he said.

They're in Good Hands Here

From puppies and kittens to senior pets, our caring and experienced team is here to provide your pet with the very best care and a compassionate touch.

Dr. Shanna Jack
Dr. Chris Buckley
and welcoming
Dr. Melinda Kelley

Bluegrass Animal Clinic
594 10th St, Plainwell
(269) 685-5894
New Extended Hours
8:30am-1pm, 2pm-5:30pm M-F

Bluegrass Animal Clinic
Accepting New Patients

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise

Service Directory Guide

Find the Services and Businesses You Need!

Andy's Tree Service
Stump Grinding
Fully Insured
Firewood
Tree Trimming / Removal
Firewood
Lot Clearing
andybeelen@gmail.com 616-566-3386

Third Coast Garage Door
Garage Doors
Openers
Service/Parts
Custom Installation
Over 20 Years Experience
Jake LaRoy-Owner
thirdcoastgaragedoor@gmail.com
Office-269-346-0803
Cell-734-777-5163
www.thirdcoastgaragedoor.com

Wendt's Fence
Installation & Repair
269-998-1532
www.wendtsfence.com Find us on

West Michigan Glass Concepts LLC
269-762-3480
Same Day Window Repair!
116 E Allegan St, Otsego
samedaywindowrepair.com

Donnie Brest Jeff Meyer
PRO AUTOMOTIVE LLC
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
ALL MAKES AND MODELS
1211-B M-89
Plainwell MI 49080
269-685-5700
www.proautomotiveplainwell.com

NAPA AUTOCARE CENTER
ASE CERTIFIED
Full Service
Car Repair & Tires
We buy and sell used cars
24 Months 24,000 MILES NATIONWIDE WARRANTY
Cars & More LLC
569 10th Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 501-5763
CarsAndMoreLLCPlainwell@gmail.com
www.CarsAndMoreLLCPlainwell.com

ASA Automotive Specialty Accessories
79 10th Street • Plainwell, Michigan 49080
Phone: 269.685.2189 • Cell: 269.806.6474
Fax: 269.685.2365 • Hours: Mon.-Thu. 8:00-6:00
email: asatrucks@asatrucks.com • web: www.asatrucks.com

KLC
M-89 SELF-STORAGE
SECURITY-LIGHTING
(269)-543-4757
NEW BUILDING OPEN FOR BUSINESS.
6464 124th AVE. FENNVILLE, MI 49408

BONIFACE
Heating and Air Conditioning Inc.
www.bonifaceheating.com
bryant Factory Authorized Dealer Heating & Cooling Systems
961 124th Avenue
Shelbyville
269-672-7914

WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK & DEVELOPMENT CO.
A Straight Flush Beats A Full House
Residential & Commercial
1148 Lincoln Rd
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com

Wet Basement?
WATERPROOFING CONTRACTORS R/J
• Internal/External Drain Tile Systems
• Water Seepage - Structural Wall & Floor Cracks
• Damp Wet Crawl Spaces
• Bowed & Cracked Walls
• Sump Pump/Emergency Backup System
• Mold Removal & Drywall Repair
24 Hour Emergency Service
Senior Discounts
LOCAL 269-337-7660
EXPERIENCED IN ALL METHODS OF BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

ACE
The helpful place.
PLAINWELL ACE HARDWARE
Screen/window Repair • Key Cutting • Live Bait
ECHO Outdoor Power Equipment YETI CRAFTSMAN
135 N. Anderson St., Plainwell 269-225-1061

THE WRIGHT FENCE
The Fencing Professionals
Schedule your FREE estimate today!
Wright Fence
900 E. Bridge St.,
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-806-7583
www.TheWrightFence.com
25 Years of Experience

H&H AUTO BODY, LLC
Complete Collision Repair
Complete Collision Repair
Accepting ALL insurance estimates.
269-685-5832
745 N. Main Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
Mon-Thu 8am-5pm. Closed Fri
fax 269-685-5834

Greg Hulsebos Contracting
Call or text 616-786-5077
Complete Remodeling Services
Kitchens/baths, custom cabinets, tile (floors, repairs)
Licensed and Insured

Special days abound on January calendar

By Gari Voss

Celebrations are constantly popping up on calendars. Usually, they are over before most people realize that they have arrived. To assist in sorting out what to celebrate and when, make notes from the following. There are some helpful hints that might assist your revelry.

The First Week in January.

National Hangover Day happens on the 1st, but only because it follows the 31st.

New Year's Resolutions Week. To this one includes ***Diet Resolution Week***. [Never fear, these will have been forgotten or placed on a back burner by the second week in January.],

National Silent Record Week. [If you wondered what this was, AI says. "The annual observance from January 1-7, promoting the value of quiet by encouraging people to listen to "silent records"—blank discs that play nothing—or simply enjoy peace and quiet as a break from constant noise, originated from a 1959 idea at the University of Detroit = Declutter your mind.],

Celebration of Life Week. [Ask a Senior Citizen, and they will tell you that the celebration of life happens every day they get up and accomplish one meaningful task, like getting that first cup of coffee or tea.],

Hunt for Happiness Week. [This might go best with those New Year's Resolutions.]

The Second Week in January.

National Pizza Week. [If someone puts this on their Resolution List during the first week in January, it may be the first resolution that is kept through the end of the year.],

Cuckoo Dancing Week. (begins January 11th) [The "Dance of the Cuckoos" was a musical score created by music director Marvin Hatley and later used as the theme song for the Laurel and Hardy films. Simply complete a comical series of movements to their theme song, involving heel-toe steps, sliding, and clapping hands in the air and on legs, mirroring their quirky, child-like energy, emphasizing fun. The music is easy to Google.],

Home Office Safety and Security Week. [Maybe this should just be find the desk, the floor and the shelves week because they are already cluttered with information for filing taxes.],

Universal Letter Writing Week. [This is really finish Christmas Card Week and letting children know that they will not receive their allowance until the Christmas bills are paid.],

National Mocktail Week. [Finally, there is a week to throw a real party and be super creative!].

Plop in Mid-January.

No Name Calling Week. [Can this be practiced every week?],

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering Week. [Maybe this is a good time to pull out those old Will Rogers tapes.].

The Third Week in January.

National Fresh Squeezed Juice Week. [Every orange in Florida voted for this, while the lemons and grapefruits were right behind.],

International Hoof Care Week (begins the 3rd Tuesday). [For those who lack a hoofed animal, the suggestion is to get a pedicure.],

World Kiwanis Week (begins January 21st). [Be sure to thank Kiwanis members who emphasize serving children and communities by organizing service projects, fundraising, and increasing awareness of needs.],

International Snowmobile Safety Week. [If this did not begin with the first significant snowfall, please, emphasize it to your favorite snowmobile riders.],

National Healthy Weight Week. [Why didn't this go with the resolutions during the first week?].

The Fourth Week in January.

Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week. [Take the opportunity to check where all important information regarding you and your important papers and numbers are kept.],

National CRNA Week (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists). [This is really January 18 –January 24, 2026, but anyone looking at having surgery should consider bringing a box of chocolate to these highly trained professionals.],

National Meat Week. [Even vegetarians and vegans can thank a rancher or farmer or hunter because the biproducts from the animals grow the best vegetables ever.]

Global Crayola Creativity Week. [This is the week that everyone should celebrate! Get out those crayons and the coloring books buried in the kids' rooms and color. Research has found this to be the most calming activity for all ages. For those who have forgotten how to be creative, Crayola has a website with suggested activities.]

In truth, being aware of the many national celebrations can be extremely helpful in building cultural understanding, empathy and community. The weeks not only highlight a variety of traditions, but they raise awareness of issues related to health and social concerns or just encourage fun that can build connections and perspectives.

Picking a topic to celebrate can bring fun to the workplace – give a coloring book page and some crayons to each team member and watch for a smile. Even Pizza Hut knew the power of crayons and placemats that were used by kids and adults alike.

Knowing weeks to promote awareness like Identity Theft or Child Abuse and Neglect or Cancer, and the list goes on, can build knowledge and empathy. Often the weeks are international, and the awareness comes that people around the world suffer from similar ailments and loss.

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

The countdown is on, and it will not be long the big glittering ball in Times Square drops and we enter 2026. What are your predictions for the coming year?

-Man near the Fennville hardware store: "I don't know. It's hard to say. Things might get a lot worse; they might get better." Laughs. "That's my prediction. It could go one way or the other."

-Man, same location: "It's a safe bet that prices will keep going up and we're all going to be worse off."

-Woman near the Fennville grocery store: "Unemployment is going to get a lot worse. My son just got laid off and it's getting harder for young folks to find a good job. I don't think it is ALL Trump's fault, but it has a lot to do with AI."

-Couple, same location; Man: "This is the year they're going to find the treasurer on Oak Island." Woman, glares at him, "That's the best you can come up with? Something stupid like that? My prediction is that we're going to discover there's life in outer space, and UFOs are real."

-Young boy and mother near the Allegan Public Library: "I'll get all A-plusses on my report card."

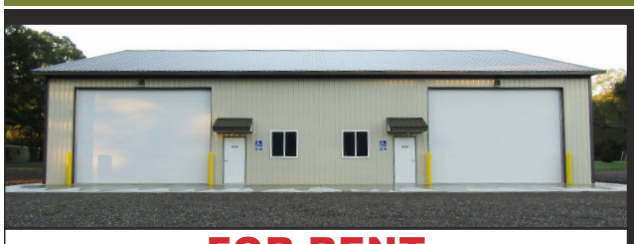
-Woman near the courthouse: "This is the year doctors will find a cure for cancer and Alzheimer's Disease. Well, if not this year, then next. They're going to find it."

-Two men near the courthouse parking lot. First man: "Trump is going to get us into World War three." That led to an immediate and sharp debate between the two. I left them for it.

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise

Service Directory Guide

Find the Services and Businesses You Need!



FOR RENT

60x80 Commercial building with office and restroom. Radiant heat, 14x20 garage door, located north of Allegan on Class A road. Immediate occupancy, large parking area, can rent whole building or half. Call Jerry at 269-650-0948

STOWAWAY SELF STORAGE
CLOSE TO HOME STORAGE

Conveniently located in Downtown Fennville

First Month FREE
269-225-3973

353 E. 1st St, Fennville
www.stowawaystoragemi.com

Naturally Grounded
Naturopathic Wellness

Naturally Grounded is a naturopathic wellness practice located in Hamilton, MI

4754 136th Avenue, Hamilton MI 49419
Phone: 269-550-3168
Website: www.ng-wellness.com

Ridderman Oil
Sales & Marketing
PO BOX 117
Plainwell, MI 49080
Lindsey
269-685-5825
Lindsey@riddermanoil.com
FUELING YOUR SUCCESS

DAMBER TREE & YARD SERVICE LLC

SERVICES INCLUDE:
- Full Tree Removal
- Gutter Cleaning
- Rototilling
- Mowing
- Gravel Driveway Work
- Mulching
- Trash Removal
- Retaining Walls

And So Much More !!!
www.dambertys.com

Fully Licensed and Insured
Call us today at (269) 251-5602
or Email at dambertys@gmail.com

Bob Tolsma Plumbing
Bob Tolsma
4215 Lincoln Rd
Holland Michigan 49423
Office (616) 836-1197
bob@tolsmaplumbing.com

- New Construction
- Remodels Insured
- Water Heaters
- Water Softeners
- Water & Sewer hookups
- 24 hr emergency

We Have The POWER To Make Things Better!
GENERAC
Best Installers • Best Warranty • Best Prices
Mr. Electric
a neighborly company
(269) 686-0014 • (269) 375-0520
www.mrelectric.com

Rent a Water Softener for $35/mo.
Add an RO for only $5/mo more.
* Call for details
Gordon WATER SYSTEMS
269-382-0068

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICES
We design to fit *your* lifestyle.
269-639-9000
www.LandscapeDS.com
A Bakker Family Business since 1968

Lawn Fertilization and Weed Control
Your Local Lawn & Landscape Experts

LONE WOLF PEST CONTROL AND NUISANCE WILDLIFE
AFFORDABLE Pest Extermination and Nuisance Wildlife Removal
Local, Prompt, Licensed and Insured.
What's Buggin you? Call 269-400-3888

To Advertise in the Allegan County News
Service Directory Guide
Call
269-673-5534

TIM ROGERS PLUMBING
SEWER AND DRAIN • PLUMBING • WATER HEATERS
WATER SERVICE & SEWER MAINS • HEATING AND COOLING
Now Licensed to Pump Septic Tanks
TIM ROGERS
PHONE: 269-673-3651
WEB: TIMROGERSPLUMBING.COM

PEERLESS Auto Glass LLC
616-930-7944
Monday - Friday 8am-5pm
Allegan
www.peerlessautoglass.com
25 years experience

Serving West Michigan Area
Mobile service to your home or work
Works with all insurance companies

AREA ALLEGAN REAL ESTATE AGENCY
WE BUY HOUSES/LAND
Buy • Sell • Trade • Rent
Residential • Commercial
Vacant Land • Land Development
Now taking listings at 4%
MyStateMLS

Lou Jennings
- Real Estate Broker
- Property Manager

269-673-4565
269-673-4565
269-910-4206
area89@frontier.com
840 Marshall Street (M-89)
Allegan, Mi. 49010

IMPROVE THE VALUE AND APPEARANCE OF YOUR VEHICLE
AUTO DETAIL SHOP
Buff & Wax, Engine, Vinyl, Glass, Door Jams, Shampoo Interior, Tires/Rims, Trunks & More
Auto Detailing Solutions
Over 19 year experience
CALL JASON AT (269) 673-6240

Tree Removal & Trimming
Stump Grinding
Fully insured
Over 30 years experience in tree work.
Very reliable and reasonable • Free estimates
RC TREE SERVICE
owned and operated by
Carl Sparks 269-377-0284 *or* 269-568-7231 Randy

TREE TECH L.L.C.
Top Soil/Bobcat Service
Tree/Lot Clearing
Tree Removal
Tree Pruning
Top Soil Installation
Stump Grinding
Firewood Log Loads
JOSEPH BRENNAN, Owner
616.990.TREE (8733)
TreeTechMI.com
5863 Old Allegan Rd.
Hamilton, MI 49419
officetreetech@gmail.com

The All-New AUTO WEST
FREE BRAKE INSPECTION at the all-new AUTO WEST
USED CAR SUPER STORES
1208 M-89, Plainwell - 269-685-9197
www.GOAUTOWEST.com

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Jan. 11, 1951

Buhler Names Louis Johnson Defense Chief: The Allegan county board of supervisors began their January session with the selection of Louis Johnson as defense chief of the county civil defense organization.

Buhler, who was re-elected chairman of the board of supervisors for another term, announced the appointment at the board's January meeting.

Johnson succeeds former defense chief Don M. Gorman, who resigned from the post last fall. Gorman had served as civil defense director for several years.

Johnson, a longtime Allegan resident, has been active in civic affairs and is well known throughout the county. His appointment was met with approval by members of the board.

The civil defense organization is responsible for coordinating emergency preparedness efforts throughout Allegan County, including disaster response planning and cooperation with state and federal agencies.

Jan. 8, 1976

Tanakas love the 'hills, lakes, scenery … and the people': Kimiyo Tanaka loves Allegan's snow… as long as she can look at it from inside a warm house while eating ice cream.

The rest of the Tanaka family, however, became snowmobile addicts the weeks they were here.

The Tanakas—the Rev. Tomotashi, his wife Kimiyo, and children Erumi, 7, and Toshihiro, 6 — were guests of the Rev. Charles Martin, pastor of the First Church of God, and family for the two weeks surrounding Christmas.

They left Saturday for South Haven and Sunday for their home in Anderson, Ind., where three of the four Tanakas are in college.

The Rev. Tom, as he's called, is an ordained minister in the Church of God and is working on his master's in religious education at Anderson College, a church-affiliated school. He expects to have his degree by June 1976.

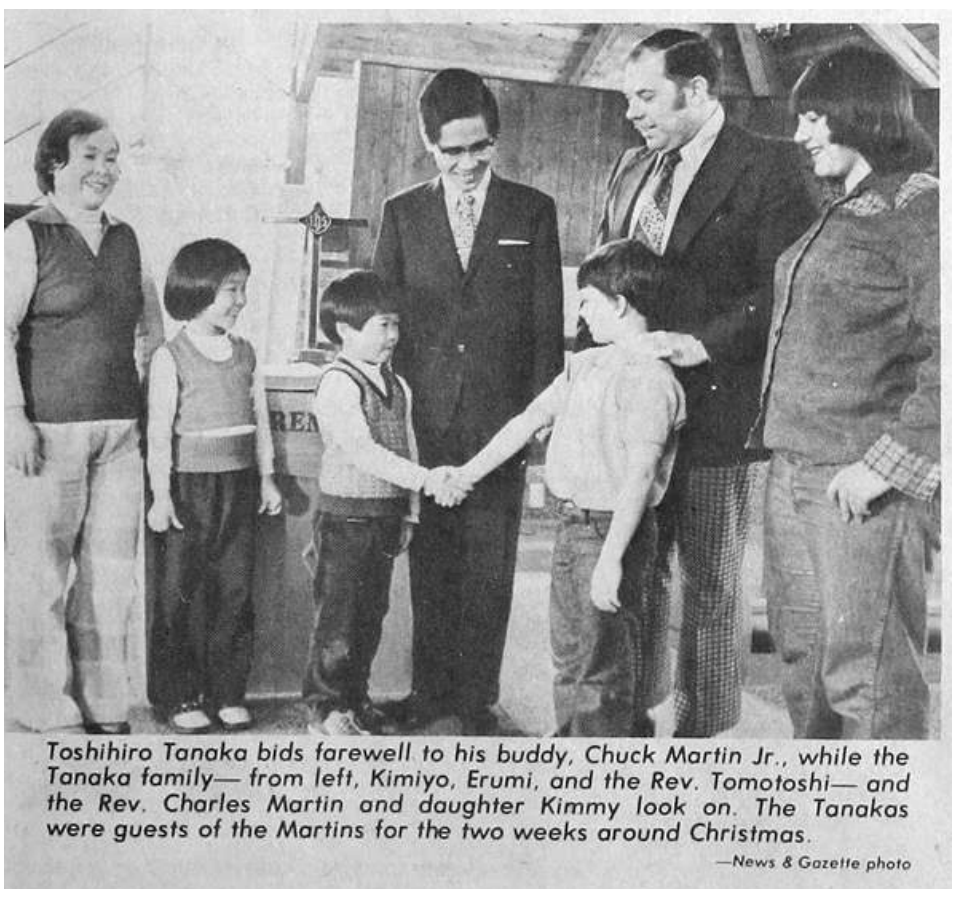
"We came to Allegan to study church music and to rest," Rev. Tom said. "And we got a very good rest."

The Tanakas fell in love with the area.

"The scenery is so beautiful," Kimiyo said. "We love the hills and the lakes."

"And the people," interjected little Erumi.

Rev. Tom was pastor of a Tokyo church for nine years before he decided to come to America and pursue an advanced degree. He hopes to return to a Tokyo church.



Toshihiro Tanaka bids farewell to his buddy, Chuck Martin Jr., while the Tanaka family— from left, Kimiyo, Erumi, and the Rev. Tomotoshi— and the Rev. Charles Martin and daughter Kimmy look on. The Tanakas were guests of the Martins for the two weeks around Christmas.

—News & Gazette photo

Jan. 11, 2001

New pastor takes charge of two area churches: As a pastor, the Rev. Alvaro Souza of Gobles is a busy man. His job brings with it far-reaching responsibilities that consume much of his time. Not only does he conduct parishioner visits during the day and in the evenings, but he also must prepare sermons, conduct seminars and oversee numerous church tasks each week.

Souza is the new pastor at both the Gobles and Allegan Seventh Day Adventist churches. His responsibilities encompass ministering to both congregations—with a combined membership of about 335 people—and the church-sponsored Gobles Junior Academy, where 60 students from Allegan and Gobles areas attend school.

"It has its special challenges," Souza said. "It's hard than taking care of one church."

Souza, who turned 50 in October, draws on more than 20 years of experience to make the dual task easier. He has been a pastor since 1977. He was born in Havana, Cuba, and moved to Miami with his family when he was two years old. His family lived in Miami until shortly before moving to Ormond Beach, California, where Souza grew up. He majored in religion at Walla Walla College in Washington. In 1983 he received his master's degree in divinity from Andrews University in Berrien Springs. His experience includes ministering in Oregon as well as Ann Arbor. Then for four months ago, he replaced the Rev. Ken Mitchell as pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Gobles and Allegan.

Now that he's begun to get settled here, Souza has made a commitment to visit each member of his new congregations in an effort to get better acquainted. "It helps me to address many things if I know my parishes and their needs," he said. "It helps the church grow."

Jan. 14, 2021

Customers form line as Family Video announces closure: Is the closing of Family Video just another indicator of changes in viewing habits, or is it more related to consumer shopping habits and the need of small business to adjust their models of operation?

On Monday, January 4, 2021, Rachel Eichler of Family Video on Western Avenue received her Manager call from district manager, Brian Ballast. He shared the news that she was to sell out all product including decorations and shelving because the store would be closing within the next couple weeks. These are some words that Ballast delivered to all 12 of his video stores.

Word spread quickly, and by Monday evening and Tuesday morning, lines of customers loaded down with cases of video games and movies waited to check-out. Each had come to the store to try and find items they hoped to purchase before movies and games were picked up by other bargain shoppers.

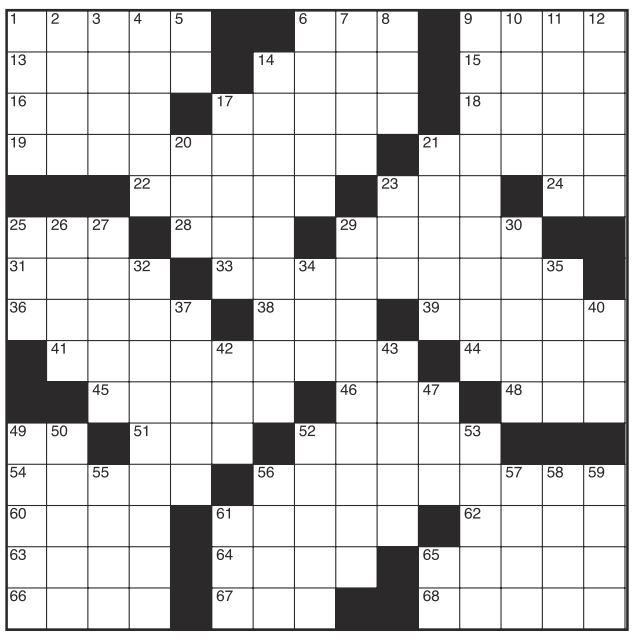
Eichler shared that the internet and employees hated to see the store close. Many customers expressed disappointment and sadness, not expecting a closing, but not for another 6 months.

The Allegan store may be better than many Family Video stores because it was the only video store in Allegan and the business may have been good because the internet did not have a presence in the home or their area when they started. With the store closed, in-store browsing is discouraged because of COVID-19, Eichler felt that some customers were about to start picking up items.

During this time, other customers discovered streaming. There was hope when Ballast began the "Store" campaign that people would begin coming back. Customers began returning, but not at the previous volume.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Lakes
6. Electromotive force
9. Invests in little enterprises
13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
14. Small sailboat
15. Actor Idris
16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
17. System that detects objects under water
18. Harsh, grating noise
19. Steward
21. A fencing sword
22. Infections
23. Actress Ryan
24. Sodium
25. Swedish castle
28. A lump of slime
29. African antelope
31. Insurance providers
33. Choosy
36. Ringworm
38. Unpolished
39. Drenches
41. Pant style
44. Son of Noah
45. Spiritual being
46. Upton Sinclair novel
48. Journalist Tarbell
49. Popular sports highlight show
51. Born of
52. Rich tapestry
54. S. China seaport
56. State of being unclothed
60. Surrounded by
61. Residue
62. Away from wind
63. Dried-up
64. Visionary
65. A very large body of water
66. Garden tools
67. Screen type
68. Ancient Scandinavian poet

CLUES DOWN
1. Millisecond
2. Spanish city
3. A sudden very loud sound
4. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
5. Tin
6. Sea eagles
7. Volcanic crater
8. Type of coat
9. Women's apartments in Ottoman palace
10. Divulge a secret
11. Norwegian playwright
12. 'It's a Wonderful Life' director
14. Poisonous perennial plant
17. 18-year astronomical period
20. Clothes
21. Places to sit
23. Family of regulator genes
25. New York ballplayer
26. Impressive in size or scope
27. Jacques __, French biologist
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Genus of woolly lemurs
32. Songs to one's beloved
34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
35. Supplemented with difficulty
37. Farewell
40. Investment account (abbr.)
42. One from Utah
43. Begets
47. A male child
49. Break apart
50. Brief appearance
52. Partner to 'oohed'
53. A light informal meal
55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
56. One billionth of a second
57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
58. Close tightly
59. Mail out
61. Language
65. Computer characteristic

Deaths

Dec. 1, 2025

BARBARA ANN FISKE, 69, Ganges Twp.

Dec. 10, 2025

JANICE RUTH PEGG, 84, Overisel Twp.

Dec. 12, 2025

LLOYD ALAN VANDYKE, 88, Laketown Twp.

DAVID ALAN RAVEN, 62, Otsego Twp.

Dec. 13, 2025

SUSAN BETH BAILEY, 75, Dorr

KIMBERLY K CARPENTER, 65, Leighton Twp.

Dec. 15, 2025

CLAUDIA JILL MERCER, 73, Allegan Twp.

MARGARET ANN LEBER, 89, Allegan

STEVEN JONES SR, 74, Ganges Twp.

Dec. 17, 2025

JACKIE PATRICK, 87, Otsego

RUTH CHARLOTTE DIRKSE, 97, Holland

Dec. 20, 2025

PETER G FOX, 79, Saugatuck

Dec. 21, 2025

WILLARD J WARNERS, 82, Leighton Twp.

WILLIAM EDWARD HAMILTON JR, 87, Allegan Twp.

MARK ALAN NESBITT, 65, Otsego

Dec. 24, 2025

EILEEN JOYCE SCHROTENBOER, 86, Heath Twp

DANIEL RAY POSTMA, 73, Leighton Twp.

Dec. 27, 2025

MARTHA JANE KARKAU, 92, Otsego

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Dec. 16 and Dec. 30:

BRITTIN COURTNEY HAMLIN, Plainwell, and **LUCAS ANTHONY WALDRON**, Plainwell

RYAN ALLEN WENTZEL, Allegan, and **CARLA JEAN BENSON**, Hamilton

JORDAN RAE GRACE, Plainwell, and **NATHAN ALLAN ZWAR**, Plainwell

NICHOLAS DALE BRINK, Allegan, and **ROSALEE ANN BRINK**, Allegan

KRISTI MARIE SNYDER, Wayland, and **ZACKARY SHANE LUCCHESI**, Wayland

DUSTIN KEITH CONINE, Zeeland, and **SARAH KAE HERTZ**, Zeeland

SAMANTHA DENISE KELLEY, Wayland, and **TRAVIS MICHAEL NYHOF**, Holland

ELIZABETH ANN GAY, Wayland, and **KARSON ALBERT DUNFORD JR**, Wayland

DALTON JAMES HUFFMAN, Dorr, and **OLIVIA KERINN LAWRENCE**, Dorr

BLAKE AUSTIN CRAFT, Allegan, and **ANNA LEE SANGER**, Hopkins

GILBERT ODUAROGHE ABU, Wayland, and **ALERO ORITSEGBUBEMI AYU**, Wayland

JODI LYNN GURITZ, Plainwell, and **CYRUS PAUL SPIDEL**, Plainwell

KEVIN MARK PUTNAM, Saugatuck, and **JOSEPH RAYMOND BLODGETT**, Saugatuck

HANNAH ELIZABETH COOPER, Fennville, and **GERALD GORDON SLAGER**, Fennville

ANTONIO SALINAS, Fennville, and **MA GUADALUPE ROBLEDO**, Fennville

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

3					5	7		
				6			1	
5	9	8				2		
		1			9			
					4		9	
	7			2	8	6		
								7
		5			1	8	2	6
						5		

(See Solution Page B7)

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Public Notices

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9am, on Thursday, January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The foreclosure sale is pursuant to the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by MOLLY MICHAEL and JAMES HATTEY, Mortgagors, to REI BlueKey, LLC, Mortgagee, dated July 19, 2024, and recorded July 30, 2024, in Liber 4961, Page 196, of Allegan County Records, Michigan, which mortgage was assigned to Cassidy Investment Group, LLC pursuant to a recorded assignment, and on which mortgage there is claimed to be due as of the date of this notice $70,645.32, including interest at 10.5% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 4 and 14, Padgham Addition, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 15, Allegan County Records, c/k/a 207 Eastern Ave, Allegan, MI 49010. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of the sale, unless the premises are determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be one month, or until the time to provide the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later. The redemption period further may be shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3238(10) if the property is not adequately maintained, or if the purchaser is denied the opportunity to inspect the property. Please be advised that if the mortgaged property is sold at a foreclosure sale by advertisement, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale, or to the mortgage holder, for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: December 18, 2025 Randall T. LeVasseur P41712 LeVasseur Dyer & Associates, PC Attorneys for Mortgagee 3233 Coolidge Hwy Berkley, MI 48072 (248) 236-1765

(12-18)(01-08)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Gerald J Madalinski II, An Unmarried Man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Center, LLC

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None

Date of Mortgage: August 11, 2017

Date of Mortgage Recording: August 18, 2017

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $96,054.18

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Allegan Village (now City) Lot 892, and running thence Southwest along the Northwesterly line of said Lot 892 continues, to the Northeasterly line of Marshall Street, thence Southeasterly along the Northeasterly line of Marshall Street 75 feet, thence Northeasterly parallel to the Northwesterly line of said Lot 892 to the Southwesterly line of Lot 896 and thence Northwesterly 75 feet to the place of beginning, in said Village (now City) of Allegan, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof.

Excepting and reserving from the above description, 37-1/2 feet heretofore deeded to Grover McAlpine, and as recorded in Liber 173 of Deeds, Page 445, described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Lot 892 and running thence Southwest along the Northwesterly line of Lot 892 continues, to the Northeasterly line of Marshall Street, thence Southeast along the Northeasterly line of Marshall Street, 37.5 feet, thence Northeasterly parallel with the Northwesterly line to the Southwesterly line of Lot 897 and thence Northwesterly to the place of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 535 Marshall St, Allegan, MI 49010-1631

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 18, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1580054

(12-18)(01-08)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage dated March 12, 2021, given by Douglas Glen Allan Jr., an individual, to Laketown Enterprises LLC, as Lender, recorded March 17, 2021 at Document #2021006394, Liber 4591 Page 551, of Allegan County Records, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due and unpaid as of March 12, 2025, for principal and interest, the sum of $71,047.49 (of which $7,700.00 is delinquent); no suit or proceeding at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt, or any part of the debt, secured by said Mortgage; the power of sale in said Mortgage having become operative by reason of such default; and the Lender having exercised and hereby exercising its right of acceleration as a result of the default;

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 15, 2026, at 09:00 AM at the front entrance of the Allegan County Courthouse, 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010, that being the place for holding the Circuit Court for the County of Allegan, there will be offered for sale and sold to the highest bidder, at public sale, for the purpose of satisfying amounts due and unpaid under said Mortgage, together with legal costs and charges of sale, including attorney fees as provided by law and in said Mortgage, and any and all other lawful charges and expenditures from the date of this notice until said date of sale, the lands in said Mortgage known 1165 58th St, Pullman, MI 49450, and further described in Exhibit A attached hereto.

The redemption period shall be six months from the date of sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 16, 2025

CUNNINGHAM DALMAN, P.C. Attorneys for Laketown Enterprises, LLC

Parkel Hillegers

Rachel L. Hillegonds

321 Settlers Road Holland, MI 49423 (616) 392-1821

EXHIBIT A

Legal Description

The land is situated in the Township of Lee, Allegan County, State of Michigan, as follows:

Parcel 1:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of the North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 5, Town 1 North, Range 15 West, Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan; thence North 10 rods to the place of beginning; thence 10 rods North along the center of road; thence East 60 rods; thence South 10 rods; thence West 60 rods to the point of beginning.

Parcel 2:

Beginning on the West line of Section 5, Town 1 North, Range 15 West, Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan, at a point 1056.00 feet South of the Northwest corner of the Section; thence South on the Section line, 40.66 feet; thence South 81 degrees 41 minutes 22 seconds East 232.87 feet; thence South 07 degrees 53 minutes 09 seconds West 165.26 feet; thence South 89 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds East 782.23 feet; thence North, 235.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds West 990.00 feet to the place of beginning.

EXCEPT beginning at a point found by commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 5, Town 1 North, Range 15 West, Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan; thence South on the West Section line 1056.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds East 250.40 feet to the place of beginning of this description; thence continue South 89 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds East 412.00 feet; thence South 103.88 feet; thence North 89 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds West 248.49 feet; thence South 66 degrees 21 minutes 03 seconds West 45.16 feet; thence North 63 degrees 11 minutes 09 seconds West 136.84 feet; thence North 62.64 feet to the place of beginning.

ALSO DESCRIBED AS:

That parcel of land described as S 400' OF N 1456' OF W 990' OF NW 1/4 EX COM AT NW COR TH S 1056' TH E 250.40' TO POB TH CONT E 412' TH S 103.88' TH W 248.49' TH S 66 DEG 21' 03" W 45.16' TH N 63 DEG 11' 09" W 136.84' TH N 62.64' TO POB SEC 5 TIN RISW

Commonly Known As: 1165 58th St, Pullman MI 49450.

Tax Parcel ID: 03-12-005-009-50

12-18 1-8

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on February 5, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Jerry Lynn Crowe to Fifth Third Mortgage MI, LLC dated February 20, 2018 and recorded March 1, 2018 in Liber 4225 at Page 326, Allegan County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank, National Association by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $117,740.30. Said premises are located in Allegan County, Michigan and are described as: Land situated in the Township of Trowbridge, County of Allegan, State of MI described as follows Beginning at the East 1/4 post of Section 14, Town 1 North, Range 13 West, thence North 89º52'11" West on the East and West 1/4 line 1326 50 feet to the South 1/8 post of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 14, thence North 0º21'27" West on the North and South 1/8 line of the Northeast 1/4 375 02 feet, thence South 89º52'11" East parallel to the East and West 1/4 line 1326 96 feet to the Fast line of Section 14, thence South 0º17'13" East on the East section line 375 01 feet to the place of beginning Commonly known as 706 26th St, Allegan, MI Tax ID. 0321-014-001-10 Said property is commonly known as 706 26th St, Allegan, MI 49010. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: December 19, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-32470

(12-25)(01-15)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Ian Vanhorn, unmarried man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Sailfish Servicing, LLC

Date of Mortgage: December 2, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: December 8, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $95,791.67

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: The South 165 feet of the North 693 feet of the West 40 feet of the East 780 feet of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, Section 29, Town 2 North, Range 13 West, City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 654 Vernon St, Allegan, MI 49010-1441

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 25, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1580820

(12-25)(01-15)

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, MAY BE DEEMED A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, GA 30004 ph:470-321-7112 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 am on February 5, 2026 The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name of the mortgagor: MARY JO MCGUCKEN. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by MARY JO MCGUCKEN to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS MORTGAGEE, SOLELY AS NOMIINEE FOR NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER, original Mortgagee, for a mortgage dated December 28, 2021, and recorded on January 10, 2022, in Liber 4718 Page 35 in the Allegan County Register of Deeds. Said Mortgage was then assigned through mesne assignments to SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC. as documented by an assignment dated May 29, 2025, and recorded on June 05, 2025, in Liber 5039, Page 316 in the ALLEGAN County Register of Deeds, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $68,570.50. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the Circuit Court within ALLEGAN County, Michigan on February 5, 2026 at 9:00 am. Said premises are located in the city of ALLEGAN in ALLEGAN County, Michigan and are described as: THE CITY OF ALLEGAN, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN AND STATE OF MICHIGAN TO WIT: LOT 5, SAWYER & MCINTOSH'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF ALLEGAN, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 3 OF PLATS, PAGE 1. BEING THAT PARCEL OF LAND CONVEYED TO MARY JO MCGUCKEN, SINGLE FROM LUCINDA H. THIELE A MARRIED WOMAN BY THAT DEED DATED 07/25/2014 IN LIBER 3856, PAGE 294, INSTRUMENT 2014013888, OF THE ALLEGAN COUNTY, MI PUBLIC REGISTRY. ACCORDING TO THE PUBLIC RECORDS, THERE HAS BEEN NO CONVEYANCE OF THE LAND WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THIS REPORT, EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS: NONE Property Address: 223 NORTH ST. ALLEGAN MI, 49010 Tax ID No. 51-285-005-00 The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If this property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the Mortgage sale or to the Mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., Mortgagee/ Assignee January 1st, 2026 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Mortgagee/Assignee 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Telephone: 470-321-7112 Facsimile: 404-393-1425 Service Email: MIFCLTeam@raslg.com

(01-01)(01-22)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Donnie Newman Jr., a married man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Nationstar Mortgage LLC

Date of Mortgage: June 4, 2014

Date of Mortgage Recording: June 11, 2014

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $71,263.03

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Plainwell, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 30, Like's Addition to the City of Plainwell, Michigan, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 5, Page 85.

Common street address (if any): 671 Melrose St, Plainwell, MI 49080-2206

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 25, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1580598

(12-25)(01-15)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 05, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Samantha A Markle, a single woman; Luke J Rice, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: January 12, 2024 Recorded on January 29, 2024, Liber 4917, on Page 208, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Thirteen Thousand Seventy-Six and 90/100 Dollars ($213,076.90) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: That part of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 22, Town 1 North, Range 12 West, described as: the Westerly 66 feet of the Southerly 165 feet of the Easterly 338.25 feet measured along the centerline of Allegan Street of that part of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 lying North of center line of street, Section 22, Town 1 North, Range 12 West. Commonly known as 422 W Allegan St, Otsego, MI 49078 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1581049

(12-25)(01-15)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on FEBRUARY 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

(Continued on Page B7)

Public Notices

Continued from Page B6

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jerry M. Zachary and Helen M. Zachary, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Heartland Home Mortgage LLC, Mortgagee, dated January 4, 2017 and recorded January 11, 2017 in Liber 4104, Page 615 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Onslow Bay Financial LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Eight and 12/100 Dollars ($71,358.12).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on FEBRUARY 5, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Laketown, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

That part of the North 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Northeast fractional 1/4 of Section 3, Town 4 North, Range 16 West, Described as Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 3, Town 4 North, Range 16 West, Thence North 89 degrees 49' West on the North Section Line 1108.64 feet to the place of beginning of this description, thence South 0 degrees 00' West 250.0 feet, thence South 89 degrees 49' East 78.0 feet, thence South 0 degrees 09' West 553.0 feet, thence North 89 degrees 49' West 142.55 feet, thence North 0 degrees 00' East 803.0 feet to the North Section line, thence South 89 degrees 49' East 66.0 feet to the place of beginning, subject to an easement over the westerly 66 feet.

1748 W 32nd St, Holland, Michigan 49423

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: January 1, 2026
File No. 25-015739
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(01-01)(01-22)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE
25-282 DE
HON. KEVIN KANE
Court address
920 West Michigan Avenue, Three Rivers, MI 49093
Court telephone no.
(269) 467-5538
Estate of Kevin R. Waltke
Date of birth:* 05/24/1967
TO ALL CREDITORS:*
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Kevin R. Waltke died 8/18/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Brian Hoggatt, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 920 West Michigan Avenue, Three Rivers and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

11/20/2025
BIRD, SCHESKE, REED, BEEMER & GEORGE, P.C.
Keely A. Beemer P79460
227 W. Chicago Road
Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 651-2445
Brian Hoggatt
PO Box 1446
Middlebury, IN 46540
(574) 538-7956

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust Estate
Ruth A. Duyster ("Decedent")
Date of Decedent's Birth: January 3, 1942
Name of Trust: Ruth A. Duyster Trust dated August 2, 2017
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Decedent, Ruth A. Duyster died November 18, 2025. There is no personal representative of Decedent's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.

Creditors of Decedent are notified that all claims against the Decedent, Decedent's estate, and/or Decedent's trust(s) will be forever barred unless presented to Trustee, Jack E. Seinen, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: December 17, 2025
Douglas J. Brackman (P-40885)
WESSELING & BRACKMANN P.C.
6439 28th Avenue
Hudsonville, Michigan 49426
(616) 669-8185
Jack E. Seinen
7163 Adams Street
Zeeland, Michigan 49464

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-656-19-DE and JUDGE Hon. Jolene Clearwater
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of GORDON LEE DUREN, Deceased Date of Birth:*
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, GORDON LEE DUREN, died January 24, 2025 .

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Vanessa Anne Cannady, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

06/29/2021
Heidi L. Wolf P52011
1244 Lincoln Rd
Allegan, MI 49010
(269)673-2105
Vanessa A. Cannady
3487 126th Ave
Allegan, MI 49010
(616)405-2037

The following notice is being published pursuant to MCL 700.7504:

Please be advised that due to the death of Willemina Alderta Passchier, address 7120 Ridgeway St. - P.O. Box 358, Glenn, MI 49416, settlement of The Willemina Alderta Passchier Trust has begun as of the date of this publication. Failure to bring a claim within four months will forever bar the claim. The Trustee of the above trust is Raymond Peter Passchier or Adriaan Gregoor Passchier. Claims are to be presented to the attorney, Timothy J. Stoner at 144 44th St., SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49548.

To David Lister, and/or any of his unknown heirs, devisees or assignees: You are being sued by Shangrai La Community, LLC in the Allegan County District Court, Case No. 25-03602-GZ, in a claim and delivery action involving personal property described as: a 1972 Champion Manufactured Home; VIN No. MI4424R112V051812. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in Allegan County District Court, at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and serve your answer upon David T. Bowen, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1042 Terrace Street, Muskegon, MI 49442 on or before February 16, 2026. Failure to comply will result in a judgment by default against any defendant not answering for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

(01-08)(01-22)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Martin L. Shoemaker, a married man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC

Date of Mortgage: September 30, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 18, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $139,225.96

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Hopkins, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 1, Shoemaker Subdivision, part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 12, Town 3 North, Range 13 West, as recorded in Liber 13 of Plats on Pages 66 and 67.

Common street address (if any): 3383 26th St, Hopkins, MI 49328-9738

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: January 8, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1581481
(01-08)(01-29)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Gene Roper and Louise Roper to Wyndham Capital Mortgage, Inc. dated August 25, 2017 and recorded August 30, 2017 in Liber 4171 at Page 811, Allegan County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $143,093.05. Said premises are located in Allegan County, Michigan and are described as: The land referred to in this instrument, situated in the City of Allegan, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, is described as follows: Lot 12, Re-plat of part of Lots 3 and 4, Lowes Divisional Map, City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 10 of Plats, Page 35, Allegan County Records. Parcel ID No(s).: 03-51-255-012-00 Said property is commonly known as 258 Lowe St, Allegan, MI 49010. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: January 5, 2026 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-34994
(01-08)(01-29)

DORR TOWNSHIP SYNOPSIS

December 18, 2025, 7:00 pm

Board in Attendance: Miling, Champion, Sewers, Tuinstra, Reitz, Weber, Stanton.
Reports Heard: Police, Fire, Planning Commission, ZBA,and Clevenger for Senate.
Agenda/ Minutes Carried
Invoices/Payroll Carried
Voted On:
A. 4th Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement for Wayland EMS- Carried
B. Fire Chief's Request_ Carried

Contact Clerk for Draft Minutes
Clerk@dorrtownship.org
Submitted by Debbie Sewers Clerk

Public Notice

In a Special Overisel Township Planning Commission Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:30 PM in the Overisel Township Hall the Commission will review and consider the public comments made at the December 29, 2025 Special meeting related to the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance document for Overisel Township, Allegan County, MI. This will be an open meeting and all interested parties are invited to attend. Handicap provisions will be provided by calling the Township Office in advance at 269-751-7030.

Dave Arendsen, Secretary
Overisel Township Planning Commission

LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC MEETING DATE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 AT 7:00 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to PA 110 of 2006, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, the Zoning Board of Appeals of Leighton Township will hold public hearings regarding the following requests during their regular meeting on Thursday, January 29th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at the Leighton Township Hall located at 4451 12th Street, Suite A, Wayland, MI 49348.

Public Hearings will be held and final action may be taken regarding the following applications:

1. A request from Scott and Linda Oshinski, property owners of 4791 Stanton Court, also known as permanent parcel 03-13-315-006-01, for relief from Section 6.05(a) and (b) to construct a detached accessory building within the required front and side yards of the R-1 Rural Estate District.
2. Any other business that comes before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

This meeting and the public hearings are intended to provide an opportunity for Township residents and interested citizens to express their opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the requests. Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of Steve Shoemaker, Zoning Board of Appeals Chair, care of Leighton Township, 4451 12th Street, Suite A, Wayland, MI 49348 or by calling the Leighton Township Office at 616-891-8238.

If any resident has a physical disability which may limit his/her participation in this hearing, please notify the Township Hall at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

STEVE SHOEMAKER, CHAIRMAN
LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
616-891-8238

CLASSIFIEDS

Baseball Cards

Buying: Baseball cards, pre-1980, 269-625-2255. 12-18 1-8

Gutters

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-866-495-1709 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 75% off installation and a bonus $250 discount! Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Generators

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-773-8191 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Waterproofing

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-866-438-1859

Cell Service

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-866-306-6243

BROE'S X-CAVATING
"Dozer & Loader Work"
• sand • crushed concrete
• gravel • slag & top soil
(616) 836-3970

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, PATIOS SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS, FLOORS.
Free estimates
Call 269-377-3950

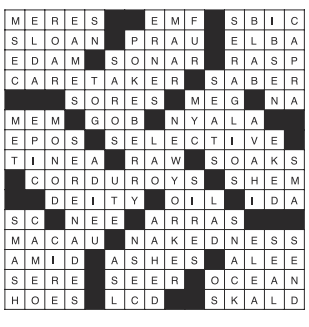
CONSTRUCTION
CONSTRUCTION
New homes, additions, remodeling, roofing, siding, cement work.
Dan Barber, licensed builder.
673-7048 evenings

GET THE MOST FOR YOUR HOME BY CONSULTING...
The Home Doctor
BEFORE YOU SELL!
It's medicine for your home!
ALREADY BOUGHT A HOME? It's time to customize it to your taste. Consult below!

INSURANCE
Hartman - Ellis
AGENCY LTD
Insurance
Auto • Fire • Life
Home • Business
155 Brady St., Allegan
673-4256

SEWER / SEPTIC
WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK
& DEVELOPMENT CO.
• Septic Systems Manufactured Installed and Cleaned
• Site Preps
800-391-0203
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com
1148 Lincoln Road, Allegan

REDI-MIX CONCRETE
Waanders Concrete Co.
Redi-Mix Concrete
Cement Blocks
673-6352
Babylon Road, Allegan



3	1	6	2	9	5	7	8	4
4	2	7	8	6	3	9	1	5
5	9	8	4	1	7	2	6	3
8	3	1	6	5	9	4	7	2
6	5	2	1	7	4	3	9	8
9	7	4	3	2	8	6	5	1
2	8	9	5	4	6	1	3	7
7	4	5	9	3	1	8	2	6
1	6	3	7	8	2	5	4	9

RELIGION SECTION

Throughout the four weeks of Advent, Christians are always invited to look at the Old Testament prophets to search and find every verse or part of a verse that foretells the coming of the Messiah. That is a good thing, but I also believe the prophets explain much of what was happening in the Holy Land at that time, and why God sent his son to redeem the world.

A perfect example is Amos who spoke and/or wrote about the grievous social injustices of his era. Today, we turn to him to watch him speak truth to the sometimes very unjust powers that still control our lives. Many Christians eagerly anticipate when that warning will become a fulfilled prophecy.

The last book containing the messages of the prophets is Malachi. We turn the page and instantly we read from the Gospels. Often, without realizing it, we galloped through some four hundred years of history. Completely neglected in this transition is the rise of the Greek empire under Alexander the Great, and soon after, the rise of the Roman Empire. Both Greece and Rome fought long, hard wars against other nations in the Mediterranean Basin, and all of this had a tremendous influence on Israel.

To ignore those four hundred years would be like studying American history up to 1610 when the English settled in Jamestown, Virginia, and a decade later when the Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts. Then, we stop there, turn the page to the next chapter and resume looking at history starting in 2000. We skipped over the American Revolution, westward migration, slavery and the civil war, the Industrial Age, two world wars in the last century, and everything else.

That is no way to study history, and we know it. At best. It tells a very incomplete story. But then, the Bible was never intended to tell a complete history. As Rabbi Robert Marx famously taught, the Old Testament (or, as it is often called today, the Hebrew Bible) is a collection of books that shows how God loved, cared for, and dealt with a bunch of truly dysfunctional people over the centuries.

Here is just one classic challenge when we turn the page from Malachi to Matthew. Before we get very far into the Gospel, we run into some interesting characters such as Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees. We are introduced to King Herod and his descendants. We read very briefly in passing, of the Scribes in Ezra, but that is about all. Where then did these different groups rise? How large were they? What was their influence on ancient Israel, and why did they tangle with Jesus? How can we better understand Jesus without knowing something about the other players.

The answers are found in very good and well-written commentaries of the New Testament. My favorite for basic information is the Daily Bible Series by the late William Barclay. I think the volumes are extremely well done, and still in print decades after his death. Today, it is also available online. From his books you can continue to move on to even more closely detailed studies.

The whole point of this type of reading and study is, of course, to learn more about what was happening in the life of Jesus and the earliest church. In turn, we better understand the message from Jesus about God's love.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97 Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UP Uni Pac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

Allegan Eyecare Complete Eye Care for the Entire Family 123 Locust St., Allegan 673-5100 • 1-800-797-4351 www.alleganeyecare.com

LEGG LUMBER & Hardware Where the Builders Go! We deliver 730 River St., Allegan 269.673.4470 www.legglumber.com

NAPA AUTO PARTS 1513 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 269-673-3080

Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc 892 34th St., Allegan 269-673-2309 Fax: 269-686-8508 tedsab1@gmail.com

A&A ANTKOVIAK & ANTKOVIAK PC For all your legal services 416 Hubbard St, Allegan • (269) 673-8468 antkoviak@frontier.com

Furniture Mattress Appliance COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE Your Complete Home Furnishing Store! 212 Trowbridge, Allegan, MI (269) 686-1155 8337 M-140 Hwy., South Haven, MI (269) 637-6135 www.countryhousefurniture.net

God He Integrity Opens Vision People's Encouragement Eyes www.HOPKINSPROPANE.com

To sponsor this page and join these community-minded businesses, call 269-673-5534.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Cheri Sleeman Schulz Associate Broker, REALTOR 269-720-4735 cherischulz@bhhsmi.com 430 Western Avenue, Allegan